  

**LOCKDOWN PROCEDURES**

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| **Darley and Summerbridge Community Primary Schools** |

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| **General Statement** |

Lockdown is the term given to protecting children and staff by keeping them indoors, in their classrooms or other safe locations. An example of when a lockdown may be appropriate would be in the event of a direct physical threat to staff and children by an armed person in or around the site premises.

In most cases this would be a precaution, on notification by the Police, of a threat in the community (Melsonby, 2010/Cumbria 2010). Very occasionally, a threat is present inside the site (Dunblane Primary Site, 1996).

We treat **all** lockdown scenarios as a full lock down in order to avoid confusion.

In the event of a serious incident, senior members of staff will decide to impose a full lockdown.

Children, staff and visitors will remain locked inside school until an all clear is given.

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| **Lockdown** |

This signifies an immediate threat to the site and may be an escalation of a partial lockdown or a spontaneous incident / event or occurrence in or near to the premises.

Examples of when a full lockdown could be implemented include (but are not exclusive) are:

Animals Aggressive parent/visitor

Noxious fumes Violent pupil

Aggressive parent/visitor Bomb threat

**Alert to staff:** Staff use an agreed code word that all members of staff recognise and understand to begin the procedure.

Our agreed code word to instigate our lockdown procedure is: **KODIAK**

A means of communicating the alert to duty staff at break times is required without fail. Our signal to outdoor staff is:

**Ring the bell once to stop the children, then ring the bell again for the children to line up**

**Immediate action:**

* All outside activity to cease with immediate effect, children and staff to return to the building in a swift and safe manner.
* All staff and children remain inside the building and **all** external doors and windows are to be locked until further notice. Internal classroom doors are locked. Nominated members of staff that are not directly supervising children are required to perform the task if appropriate to ensure the ongoing safeguarding of the children.
* Children / staff and visitor register will be taken – the office will contact each area in turn for an attendance report. This must be done within 15 minutes of the lockdown being called.
* At the discretion of the responsible person, free movement within the building may be permitted dependent upon the known information or continued reporting of the incident / circumstances.

In the event of an Air Pollution Incident being reported, all air vents should be closed / covered (where possible within the premises. If this is not possible, the children / staff should be relocated from the room initially and a further decision is to be made by the responsible person regarding the appropriate room to relocate to and remain.)

The responsible person will remain in contact with the appropriate Emergency Services team(s) and will make future dynamic risk assessment decisions with the assistance and advice of professional bodies regarding the prevailing threat. An evidence log should be completed, should it be required at a later stage.

Each situation is unique and presents differing on-going challenges. Once the children / staff and volunteers etc. are accounted for the responsible person will conduct an on-going dynamic risk assessment basing their decision making primarily on advice received from the Emergency Services. All staff will be updated when applicable, and a written evidence log will be maintained throughout should it be required at a later stage.

The lock down procedure will remain in force until it has been established from a member of the Emergency Services that the incident has been successfully resolved and no further risk is posed to the welfare and safety of the children / staff etc. At any time during the lockdown, if the fire alarm sounds an evacuation of the building is required.

During the lockdown procedure, staff will maintain agreed open lines of communication and must not make unnecessary calls until further notice as this may delay the information sharing process to and from the responsible person.

Examples of using discreet communication methods should they be necessary to update the emergency services:

* Staff have access to an internal e-mail/instant messenger system that they can access to inform and await further instructions. In practical terms, staff would need to be familiar with accessing their account through a variety of means e.g. laptop, smartphone or tablet.
* ‘Parent mail,’ staff may be put into a defined user group. This could then lead to communicating instructions via text message in an emergency.
* Staff phones are turned to silent

**Communication between parents and the site**

Site Lockdown procedures, especially the arrangements for communicating to parents, should be routinely shared with parents / guardians either by newsletter or via the site’s website.

Should a Lockdown occur, it is advised that developments are communicated to parents / guardians as soon as is practicable and in some cases in agreement with the emergency services and the most senior member of staff overseeing the incident. Parents will naturally be concerned, anxious and all accurate information releases will assist to alleviate undue anxiety.

Parents / guardians should be given enough information to enable them to understand the potential outcome and when possible time frames so that they:

* Are reassured that the site / emergency services understands their concern for their child’s welfare, and that everything possible is being completed to ensure their safety.
* Parents / guardians must be made aware to refrain from directly calling the site’s office. Calling the site will tie up telephone lines that will be required to be used by the responsible person and the emergency services.
* Parents / guardians must refrain from initially attending the site. This may interfere with the emergency provider’s access / investigation and may put themselves and others in danger.
* Parent / guardians must wait patiently until a safe and satisfactory outcome has been achieved and agreed by all parties, where a designated safe area will be identified for the safe handing over of the children to their parents / guardians.

During the initial “breaking news” of the incident it is vital that all parents are re assured regarding the welfare and safety to their children is paramount and that the matter is being dealt with by the emergency services and NYCC jointly to resolve the matter as soon as possible with little impact to the children and the wider community.

However it must also be stressed that at this time **“the site is in a full lockdown procedure. During this period the switchboard and entrances will be un-manned, external doors will be locked and no person is allowed in or out of the premises until further notice.**

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| **Emergency Services** |

It is vital that the communication lines remain open to the Emergency Services at all times, they are best placed to offer advice / assistance as a situation develops. A decision may be taken to cordon off the premises partially or as a whole by the Emergency Services. This will be dependent on the severity of the incident that has led to a Lockdown procedure taking effect.

The emergency services will support the responsible person and NYCC in the decision making processes and the timing of communication to parents, the press etc.

Should a prolonged lockdown incident occur, North Yorkshire County Council and its partners have the capacity to provide humanitarian assistance by establishing a Reception Centre for friends and family outside of the cordoned area and other pre-determined facilities.

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| **Post Lockdown** |

Further assistance will be provided by North Yorkshire County Council and its partners in dealing with the effects of the incident to all persons involved.

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| **Signed:** |  |
| **Date:** | October 2022 |
| **Review Date:** | October 2024 |