



**Guidance for Lockdown
Procedures
(including bomb threats)**
Lockdown Procedures Guidance

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Update Due: August 2026

1. THE PURPOSE OF THE LOCKDOWN PROCEDURES

1.1. Lockdown procedures should be seen as a sensible and proportionate response to any external or internal incident which has the potential to pose a threat to the safety of staff and pupils in the school. Procedures should aim to minimise disruption to the learning environment whilst ensuring the safety of all pupils and staff.

1.2. Lockdown procedures may be activated in response to any number of situations, but some of the more typical situations might be:

A reported incident / civil disturbance in the local community (with the potential to pose a risk to staff and pupils in the school). An intruder on the school site (with the potential to pose a risk to staff and pupils). A warning being received regarding a risk locally, of air pollution (smoke plume, Gas cloud, Chemical spill etc.). A major fire in the vicinity of the school. The close proximity of a dangerous animal roaming loose.

2. PROCEDURES AT Lake Haven

2.1. Lake Haven has robust control into the building with locks fitted to all final exit doors. When the doors are locked, they cannot be accessed from the outside. The main entrance can only be accessed should a member of staff give access. This gate remains locked at all times between the hours of 8:30am and 3:30pm. It is essential that staff ensure access doors and gates are closed unless they are outside with pupils.

2.2. The school's most vulnerable point is the front gate, children's entrance

or the park entrance but it is protected by mag-locks and fenced. Admin teams are vigilant against intruders and have processes for gaining assistance if required. The main entrance security doors are controlled by a key code padlock with a secure code. This is manned by CCTV at all times.

2.3. It is still highly unlikely that a LOCKDOWN situation will occur, but we must have a simple process in place just in case.

2.4. Any member of staff is empowered to initiate a LOCKDOWN should they consider it necessary without delay. The Head teacher, Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Designated Safeguarding Lead should be informed as soon as possible of the possible threat and need to lockdown. However, where staff have serious concerns for the safety of those on the school site any member of staff is empowered to initiate a LOCKDOWN.

3. SIGNAL FOR LOCKDOWN

The signal for LOCKDOWN (partial/full) will be verbally communicated via staff relay up/down the premises or radioed with 'Code Blue!'. Once the Headteacher and SLT have assessed the situation, calls will be made to nominated members of staff across the school site (including the outdoor classrooms) to start initiating lockdown procedures.

Initial lockdown arrangements:

- Headteacher, Proprietors and DSL assess the possible identified threat and if required initiate lockdown procedures.

All pupils, teaching and support staff return to classrooms (if safe to do so).

If it is considered that pupils will be safer dispersing and getting off site staff are empowered to make that risk assessment. All pupils should be accounted for through taking a register. Admin teams collect staff, visitor and contractor registers and account for them. All staff are responsible for

locking external doors and shutting/locking windows and drawing blinds. SLT to meet in the upstairs office.

If someone has been taken hostage on the premises, the school site should be fully evacuated where it is safe to do so.

4. PARTIAL LOCKDOWN

This may be as a result of locally reported incidents in the community, for example local disturbance or air pollution etc., or a lone intruder on site not displaying any particular signs of aggression and no visible weapon.

Alert to staff - PARTIAL LOCKDOWN

All external activities will cease, and pupils moved back into building/classrooms. External doors and windows shut and locked. All staff and pupils remain inside with external doors and windows locked, staff movement through the building may still be permitted if advised by SLT, pupils only to leave classrooms where supervised. SLT will undertake an ongoing risk assessment based on advice from the emergency services.

Partial lockdown is a precautionary measure but puts the school in a state of readiness (whilst retaining a degree of normality, e.g continuing with work in class) should the situation escalate.

5. FULL LOCKDOWN

This may be as a result of an immediate threat to the school or as an

escalation of a partial lockdown.

Alert to staff - **FULL LOCKDOWN**

All pupils, teaching and support staff return to classrooms External doors and windows shut and locked. Classroom doors blocked as best possible Headcount/register taken and blinds closed where in place and door window covered. Pupils and staff sit at their desks. All stay in these positions until given the all clear

6. IMMEDIATE SITE EVACUATION

6.1. If it is considered that the best option for the safety of staff, pupils and visitors is to evacuate the site at any point either in response to an incident or during a partial or full LOCKDOWN, for instance if there are intruders on site causing harm, the Headteacher will communicate this to relevant staff. She will then start the movement of persons to the school evacuation point which is *Bramcote Golf Range, Bazzard Road, Bramcote.*

6.2. At this point, staff must attempt to get all pupils out of the building and off site as quickly and safely as possible. If the emergency services are in attendance, they will coordinate the exit. If the emergency services are not on site, the class teachers and teaching assistants must make sensible decisions about when to leave and which route to take.

6.3. On being notified of the need to leave the site, all staff must immediately get pupils out of the building and away from site in the safest possible way making dynamic decisions as they go.

7. COMMUNICATION TO STAFF

7.1. On being notified of a **PARTIAL LOCKDOWN, FULL LOCKDOWN or EVACUATION**, key staff must undertake the relevant procedures until all staff have been made aware of the situation.

7.2. Staff should regularly be reminded of the LOCKDOWN and EVACUATION procedures

8. COMMUNICATION TO PARENTS

8.1. School lockdown procedures, especially arrangements for communicating with parents, will be routinely shared with parents either by newsletter or via the school website.

8.2. In the event that LOCKDOWN or EVACUATION procedures are initiated, parents should be informed as soon as is practicable only on the authority of the Headteacher, designated deputy or on the advice of the emergency services. Where possible regular communication of accurate information should be communicated to alleviate undue **anxiety**.

8.3. Parents should be given enough information about the school procedures so that they:

- Are reassured that the school understands their concern for their child's welfare, and that it is doing everything possible to ensure his/her safety
- Do not need to contact the school. Calling the school could tie up

telephone lines that are needed for contacting emergency providers

- Do not come to the school. They could interfere with emergency provider's access to the school and may even put themselves and others in danger
- Wait for the school to contact them about when it is safe to collect their children, and where this will be from.

8.4. The communication with parents needs to reassure them that the school understands their concern for their children's welfare and that everything possible to ensure their children's safety will be done.

8.5. However, it may also be prudent to reinforce the message that if the school is in a full lockdown situation the switchboard and entrances will be unmanned, external doors locked and nobody allowed in or out. Parents may not be able to contact the school in these circumstances.

8.6. If an evacuation is required, parents must be made aware of the arrangements for picking up their children and the need to not remove pupils from the site until informed by staff that it is safe to do so.

9. BOMB THREATS

9.1. Although bomb threats usually turn out to be hoaxes, they must always be taken seriously. It is important that staff receiving the call know what questions to ask the caller so they may pass on as much information as possible to the Police. (see attached template appendix 1)

9.2. On receiving a bomb threat, the member of staff should report the call immediately to the police, and then notify the Head teacher or the

designated deputy.

9.3. in all situations involving bomb threats the Police will take control of the situation and make recommendations to the Headteacher or designated deputy.

The advice may be:

- To remain within the building in which case FULL LOCKDOWN procedures should be followed in the absence of any other specific guidance from the emergency services
- To instruct staff and children to evacuate the building, in which case EVACUATION procedures should be followed in the absence of any other specific guidance from the emergency services. In this situation, it may be necessary to move away from the fire evacuation points given their proximity to the building and relocate to the school field. This would allow relocation to an off-site evacuation point, via the main gate leading to Bazzard Road, if required.

9.4. Where the decision is taken to evacuate the site due to a bomb threat, the headteacher will communicate the decision and organise for all persons to evacuate to the offsite evacuation point, Bramcote Golf Range. At this point, staff must attempt to get all pupils out of the building and off site as quickly and safely as possible. If the emergency services are in attendance, they will coordinate the exit. If the emergency services are not on site, the class teachers and teaching assistants must make sensible decisions about where to take pupils once off site if the normal assembly point is not safe. In the absence of alternative advice, normal fire evacuation procedures should be followed.

9.5. Where it is safe to do so staff should make a quick visual check as they exit the area to see whether there appears to be any items that are not

familiar.

10. SUSPECT PACKAGES

10.1. The likelihood of a school receiving a postal bomb or suspected biological/chemical package is very low, however, staff should be aware of the immediate steps to be taken if they receive a suspect package or come into contact with a biological or chemical substance.

10.2. Where staff receive suspect packages then the guidance in Appendix 2 should be followed.

LOCKDOWN PROCEDURE

1. Stay calm and start the alert procedure to make staff aware that a lockdown is required. This is done by notifying SLT.

A dynamic decision will then be made by the Headteacher/ SLT and on how to proceed following the report of a potential threat.

Phone calls will then be made to all staff onsite until the message has been passed on.

They will also be asked to turn on emergency walkie talkies for future updates.

2. All pupils, teaching and support staff to return to classrooms (if safe to do so). Ensure all windows, blinds and doors are closed and locked where possible. Door glass to be covered where possible. All teaching staff to be responsible for locking doors and windows and closing blinds in their own

classrooms.

Ensure all personal mobile phones are on silent and ask pupils to sit calmly and wait for further advice.

All pupils should be accounted for through taking a register.

SLT will undertake an ongoing dynamic risk assessment based on advice from the emergency services.

If it is considered that pupils will be safer dispersing and getting off site, staff are empowered to risk assess that situation and act accordingly. This would be completed by using the closest exit, leaving the site via the closest gate and relocating to a safe area, or the off-site evacuation point, Bramcote Golf Range.

3. If persons are not in the classroom e.g., outside during PE/ round the lake for Forest School, then a risk assessment should be completed to assess whether it is safe to return to the building or whether dispersing externally would be more appropriate.

If all persons are located in the hall for assembly, then the headteacher and SLT will dynamically assess the situation as to whether it is safer to stay within the building or to relocate, taking into account the type and location of the threat highlighted.

4. Key staff make calls to emergency services to inform and ask for assistance, giving as much detail as possible about the situation.

The Proprietors to be made aware of the situation when situation allows, and immediate threat is over.

5. Stay in the school house or designated buildings unless advised to move from these areas by the emergency services or person in charge of the

incident. If it is not safe to stay in this area then follow the run, hide, and tell guidance.

- Run to a place of safety
- Hide in a safe place
- Tell the emergency services of the escalating situation.

*Note, this should only be done as a last resort in the instance of an intruder entering the building, and it is possible to do so.

If the need to evacuate the building arises, staff and pupils should attempt to leave the site and relocate to the offsite evacuation point, Bramcote Golf Centre. Safe refuge should be sought until further advice can be gained.

6. Ensure you follow all emergency service guidance throughout the lockdown and only leave the area/ building once they have ensured the area is safe.

7. After the incident, ensure that all pupils and staff are de-briefed and decide on whether to return to class or send pupils home.

Contact parents to inform them of the incident and confirm all persons are safe. Social media could mean some parents already know, but ensure this is communicated following the incident.

8. Offer support to staff and pupils following the incident with open dialogue. Provide specialist support where required.

Appendix 1

BOMB THREAT PROCEDURE

Although bomb threats usually turn out to be hoaxes, they must always be taken seriously. It is important that staff receiving the call know what questions to ask the caller so they may pass on as much information as possible to the Police.

Possible actions/ prompt card

Action

Tick

1. Stay calm
2. Let them finish the message without interruption. Try to record exactly what they say, especially any codeword they might give

Message:

3. Make a note of:
 - The exact time of the call:
 - The caller's sex and approximate age:
 - Any accent the person has, or any distinguishing feature about their voice (e.g., speech impediment, state of drunkenness)

- Any distinguishable background noises:
- Phone number on screen if available:

4. When they have finished the message, try to ask as many of the following questions as you can, being cautious to avoid provoking the caller:

- Where is the bomb?
- What time is it due to go off?
- What does it look like?
- What will cause it to explode?
- Why are you doing this?
- What is your name?
- What is your address?
- What is your telephone number?

5. Dial 1471 – you may get the details of where the phone call was made from, especially in the case of a hoax caller

6. Report the call to the police and the Head teacher/ nominated deputy immediately. In the extremely unlikely event that there was a codeword with the message, and the location of the bomb was given as a location other than the school, follow the same procedure - report the call immediately to the police, and then notify the Head teacher.

Appendix 2

Guidance on suspect packages

The likelihood of a school receiving a postal bomb or suspected biological/chemical package is very *low*, however, you should be aware of the immediate steps to be taken if you receive a package or come into contact with a biological or chemical substance.

Postal bombs or biological/chemical packages may display any of the following signs:

- Grease marks or oily stains on the envelope or wrapping
- An unusual odour including but not restricted to almonds, ammonia, or marzipan
- Discolouration, crystals on surface or any powder or powder-like residue on the envelope or wrapping (suspect biological/chemical threat)
- Visible wiring or tin foil
- The envelope or package may feel very heavy for its size
- The weight distribution may be uneven
- Delivery by hand from an unknown source or posted from an unusual place
- If a package, it may have excessive wrapping There may be poor handwriting, spelling, or typing It may be wrongly addressed, or come from an unexpected source
- No return address or postmark that does not match return address
- There may be too many stamps for the weight of the package
- If you suspect that a letter or a package may contain a bomb:

Stay calm

Put the letter or package down gently and walk away from it

DO NOT PUT THE LETTER OR PACKAGE INTO ANYTHING (INCLUDING WATER) AND DO NOT PUT ANYTHING ON TOP OF IT

Ask everyone to leave the area (including classes if necessary)

Notify the police and the Headteacher/nominated deputy immediately

DO NOT USE MOBILE PHONES OR SOUND THE ALARM USING THE BREAK GLASS CALL POINTS

If you suspect that a letter or a package may contain a biological or chemical threat:

Stay calm

Do not touch the package further or move it to another location

Shut windows and doors in the room and leave the room, but keep yourself separate from others and available for medical examination

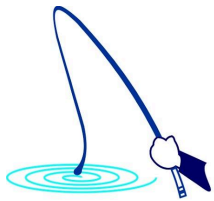
Notify the Headteacher/nominated deputy immediately

The Headteacher/nominated deputy should then:

- Notify the police immediately on 999
- Ensure that any air conditioning system in the building has been turned off, and that all doors (including internal fire doors) and windows have been closed
- Evacuate the building, keeping people away from the contaminated room as far as possible
- Keep all persons exposed to the material separate from others and available for medical attention
- If anyone is experiencing symptoms of chemical exposure (e.g., streaming eyes, coughs, and irritated skin) seek medical attention immediately

If anyone believes they have been exposed to biological/chemical material, they should be encouraged to:

- Remain calm
- Do not touch eyes, nose, or any other part of the body
- Wash your hands in ordinary soap where facilities are provided



LAKEHAVEN

A SPECIAL PLACE TO LEARN