



Hovingham & St Hilda's CE (VC) Primary Schools Federation

Headteacher Mr J. Pynn MA NPQH



27th September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our school is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils and our priority is to keep the children safe at all times. I am writing to inform you about emergency procedures we are putting in place should our school ever need to go into 'Lockdown'. A school lockdown is the opposite of an evacuation. In a 'lockdown' children and staff remain inside the building for their safety.

There is no intelligence to suggest that a threat is likely, but it's standard health and safety practice for schools to have lockdown procedures in place, as it is good practice for schools to prepare for all situations regardless of how unlikely their occurrence may seem.

Please read a brief summary below.

Lockdown Procedures

Lockdown procedures should be seen as a sensible and proportionate response to any external or internal incident, which has the potential to pose a risk to staff and pupils in the school.

Lockdown procedures may be activated in response to any number of situations including;

- A reported incident/civil disturbance in the local community.
- An intruder on or outside the school site.
- A warning being received regarding a risk locally, of air pollution (smoke plume, gas cloud etc)
- The close proximity of a dangerous dog roaming loose.

There are two levels of lockdown;

Partial lockdown (Amber) during which staff and pupils remain in the school building. School activities carry on as normal, however, entrances and exits to the school would be locked and monitored closely. All staff are aware and on alert to be vigilant. Children and parents would not be aware of the situation in this instance.

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Full lockdown (Red) during which all staff and children would remain inside the building. Internal and external doors and windows would be locked, and staff and pupils are to remain seated, quiet and out of view. Children would be fully aware of the situation in this instance and the school would following instructions from the Emergency Services. Parents would be informed in this situation.

We will be talking to the children about this in assembly and in classrooms in a very sensitive manner using a recommended resource, "Moggy's Coming" during week commencing 7th October 2019. Please speak with Mr Pynn if you want to view this resource in school. It is obviously not our intention to make any child feel anxious, however we do feel it is very important that we have these procedures in places and we will be carrying out a partial lockdown practice later this term to ensure that everybody is clear on what they need to do. Our school site is extremely secure and access is restricted, so we are almost operating on 'partial lockdown' as a normal everyday routine. The NSPCC have provided advice for parents to talk to their children about terrorism. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/supporting-children-worried-about-terrorism/>

Please discuss this with your children and if you have any queries or comments please do speak with Mr Pynn.

Yours sincerely



James Pynn
Headteacher

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