

*St. Joseph's Catholic School & Sixth Form Centre*

Ysgol Gatholig San Joseff



## **Lockdown Procedures Policy**

**Lockdown Procedures Policy agreed by Governors:**

**Signed by Chair:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Bellinger', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

**Date: 13/03/2024**

## St Joseph's Comprehensive School 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 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.

Lockdown procedures may be activated in response to any number of situations, but some of the more typical 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 etc)
- A major fire in the vicinity of the school
- The close proximity of a dangerous dog/animal roaming loose

In any lockdown situation all staff will use their best professional judgement and common sense to understand each situation and to respond in the best interests of the health, safety and wellbeing of pupils.

**The lockdown procedure for St Joseph's Comprehensive school is outlined below:**

Signals	
Signal for lockdown (during a lesson)	The school buzzer will sound outside of the usual timeframe. <b><i>This is an interim measure whilst we research whether the fire alarm system can sound a different sound/tone.</i></b>
Signal for all-clear	Verbal confirmation – in person

Lockdown		
Rooms most suitable for lockdown	All classes to remain in own classroom	
Entrance points (e.g. doors, windows) should be secured	External doors Fire doors Internal doors All windows	
Communication arrangements	Communication to staff will be in person or via school emails.	
Notes	If someone is taken hostage on the premises, the school should seek to evacuate the rest of the site.	
Course of Action	Initial response- Lockdown	tick/sign/time
L1	Ensure all pupils are inside the school building. Alternatively, ask pupils to hide or disperse if this will improve their safety All Adults are responsible for their own class.	
L2	Lock / secure entrance points (e.g. doors & windows) to prevent the intruder entering the building . All adults.	
L3	Dial 999. Dial once for each emergency service that you require. All staff who have access to a telephone to do so.	
L4	Ensure people take action to increase protection from attack: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Block access points (e.g. move furniture to obstruct doorways)</li> <li>• Sit on the floor, under tables or against a wall.</li> <li>• Keep out of site.</li> <li>• Draw curtains/blinds</li> <li>• Turn off lights</li> <li>• Stay away from windows and doors</li> </ul> All adults are responsible for their own class.	
L5	Ensure that pupils, staff and visitors are aware of an exit point	

	in case the intruder does manage to gain access. All adults aware.	
L6	If possible, check for missing / injured pupils, staff and visitors. All adults.	
L7	Remain inside until an all-clear has been given, or unless told to evacuate by the emergency services.	

- Staff will be alerted to the activation of the plan via the school buzzer (outside of the usual timeframe)
- Pupils who are outside of the school buildings are to be brought inside as quickly as possible, unless this endangers them or others. If children remain outside they should be moved to the nearest place of safety on or off site.
- Those inside the school should remain in their classrooms.
- All external doors and, as necessary, windows are locked (depending on the circumstances, internal classroom doors may also need to be blocked)
- Once in lockdown mode, staff should notify the office immediately of any pupils not accounted for via email and senior staff instigate an immediate search for anyone missing if safe to do so.
- Staff should encourage the pupils to keep calm.
- As appropriate, communication with the Emergency Services will be established and Neath Port Talbot Council notified.
- Parents will be notified as soon as it is practicable to do so via ClassCharts
- Pupils will not be released to parents during a lockdown
- If it is necessary to evacuate the building, the fire alarm will be sounded and everyone should leave the building via the nearest exit and assemble on the school yard as per fire evacuation procedure.

It is of vital importance that the school's lockdown procedures are familiar to all members of the school staff. To achieve this, the lockdown procedures will be reviewed and discussed in two 'Whole School' staff meetings, twice a year.

## **Partial Lockdown**

**Alert to staff:** "Partial lockdown"

This may be as a result of a reported incident / civil disturbance in the local community with the potential to pose a risk to staff and pupils in the school. It may also be as a result of a warning being received regarding the risk of air pollution, etc.

**Immediate action:**

- All outside activity to cease immediately, pupils and staff to return to the building. (Pupils will be alerted via staff repeatedly blowing on their whistles in long extended blasts)
- All staff and pupils remain in the building and external doors and windows locked
- Movement may be permitted within the building dependent upon circumstances but this must be supervised by a member of staff

All situations are different. Once all staff and pupils are safely inside, senior staff will conduct an on-going any dynamic risk assessment based on advice from the Emergency Services. This will then be communicated to staff and pupils.

“Partial lockdown” is a precautionary measure but puts the school in a state of readiness (whilst retaining a degree of normality) should the situation escalate.

Emergency Services will advise as to the best course of action in respect of the prevailing threat.

**Full Lockdown**

**Alert to staff: “Full lockdown”**

This signifies an immediate threat to the school and may be an escalation of a partial lockdown.

**Immediate action:**

- All pupils to return to classroom
- External doors locked. Classroom doors locked and blocked
- Windows locked, blinds drawn, pupils sit quietly out of sight under desks.
- Staff and pupils remain in lock down until it has been lifted by a senior member of staff / emergency services.
- At any point during the lockdown, the fire alarm may sound, which is a cue to evacuate the building.
- During lockdown, staff will keep agreed lines of communication open, via e-mail, but will not make unnecessary calls to the main office as this could delay more important communication. The Senior Leadership Team will remain in contact via walkie talkies.

- If a lockdown is needed during break or lunch time, then pupils may be directed back to their previous lesson if needed.

### **Communication between parents and the school**

In the event of an actual lockdown, any incident or development will be communicated to parents as soon as is practicable. Parents will be given enough information about what will happen so that they:

- Are reassured that the school understand 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 for you to come and collect their children, and where this will be from.

Parents will be told

“...the school is in a full lockdown situation. During this period the switchboard and entrances will be un-manned, external doors locked and nobody allowed in or out...”

### **Emergency Services**

It is important to keep lines of communication open with Emergency Services as they are best placed to offer advice as a situation unfolds. The school site may or may not be cordoned off by Emergency Services depending on the severity of the incident that has triggered the lockdown.

The Headteacher/Senior member of staff will liaise with Emergency Services with regards to the timing of communication to parents.