

GLEBE PRIMARY SCHOOL
UNITED LEARNING ACADEMY

Lock Down Policy
2024-2025

Updated: Summer 2024
New Review: Summer 2025

Approved by the Local Governing Body 23rd April 2024



Signed by: Mr. James Dempster
Position: Chair of the Local Governing Body

Introduction

'Lock-Down' 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, staff and visitors.

'Lock-Down' procedures may be activated in response to any number of situations, these may include:

- 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.) or chemical, biological or radiological contaminants;
- A major fire in the vicinity of the school;
- The close proximity of a dangerous dog/animal roaming loose.

2. 'Lock-Down' Alert

The nominated 'Lock-Down' Manager at the school is the Site Manager or appropriate deputy; they will initiate, manage and conclude the 'Lock-Down'. They will also communicate with the emergency services. The role and responsibilities of the 'Lock-Down' Manager are recorded in Appendix 1.

3. 'Lock-Down' Arrangements

3.1 Partial 'Lock Down'

Staff will be alerted by a code word via school phones to classrooms and to other rooms, via word of mouth and using any walkie talkies on the field or playgrounds.

In a partial 'lock-down' staff and pupils must remain in the school building and all doors leading outside must be locked. No one can be allowed to enter or leave the building; however teaching and work should continue as usual if practicable to do so. 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, but whereby that risk is not immediate. It may also be as a result of a warning being received regarding the risk of air pollution, etc. especially any warning from the emergency services.

Immediate action

- All outside activity to cease, pupils and staff return to the building.
- All staff and pupils remain in the building and all external doors and windows to be locked, other than those as designated emergency exits.
- Free movement may be permitted within the building dependent upon circumstances.
- In the event of air pollution, chemical, biological or radiological contaminants issue, air vents, fans, heating and air conditioning systems must be closed or turned off.
- Use anything to hand to seal up all the cracks around doors and any vents into the room – your aim is to minimise possible ingress of pollutants.
- Staff should await further instructions.

All situations are different. Once all staff and pupils are safely inside, senior staff will conduct an ongoing and dynamic risk assessment based on any advice received from the Emergency Services.

Communication during a 'partial lock-down' will be via the school's email system or direct communication from the 'Lock-Down' Manager.

A 'partial lock-down' may also be used as a precautionary measure; putting the school into 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.

Staff and pupils remain in 'lock-down' until it has been lifted by the Lock-Down Manager or senior member of the emergency services.

3.1 Full 'Lock-Down'

Staff will be alerted by a code word using internal phones. Walkie-talkies and word of mouth.

This signifies an immediate threat to the school and may be an escalation of a partial 'lock-down'. **The aim of a full 'lock-down' is for the school and its rooms to appear empty.**

Immediate action

- All pupils/staff to stay in their classroom or move to the nearest classroom;
- Office staff should remain in their office;
- All outside activity to cease, pupils and staff return to the building or exit the site and proceed to Shoreham Academy. (There needs to be a means of communicating the alert to duty staff at break times).
- External doors locked. Classroom doors locked (where a member of staff with a key is present) or barricaded;
- Windows locked, blinds drawn, internal door windows covered (so an intruder cannot see in);
- Pupils and staff to sit quietly out of sight and where possible in a location that would protect them from gunfire, bullets can go through glass, brick, wood and metal. Consider locations behind substantial brickwork or heavy reinforced walls;
- Lights, smartboards and computer monitors turned off;
- Staff mobiles to be set to silent with no vibrate;
- A register to be taken of all pupils and staff in each classroom/office;
- Communicate register of staff and pupils to the Lock-Down Manager;
- Staff should await further instructions.

During the 'lock-down', staff will keep agreed lines of communication open but not make unnecessary calls as this could delay more important communication.

Staff and pupils remain in 'lock-down' until it has been lifted by the Lock-Down Manager or senior member of the emergency services.

4. Unsafe Areas (if applicable)

The following areas must not be used during a lock-down and should be evacuated as they cannot be secured:

- Halls
- Playgrounds
- Field
- All quads
- Children's toilets
- Staff room
- Junior library
- Corridors
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5. Communication with Parents and Carers

The Headteacher will inform parents and carers that the school is in 'lock-down' via the school's ARBOUR system, the following template may be used:

'The school is in a Lock-Down situation. During this period phones will not be answered, all doors are locked and nobody can enter or leave the site. We are working to ensure the safety of all our children. DO NOT come to the school until the incident has been resolved. We will keep you informed as best we can.'

During a 'lock-down' no members of the public will be allowed into the school and parents/carers will be told not to travel to the school.

All staff, pupils and visitors to the school will not be allowed to leave the school until the 'lock-down' has been declared over.

Parents and carers must not try to contact the school during the 'lock-down'.

Pupils will not be dismissed to parents or carers until the incident has been declared over by the Lock-Down Manager or senior member of the emergency services.

Preparing the Community for a Practice:

- Every year these procedures we will share the policy with parents and give an opportunity for questions to be asked.
- We will explain to children in a child friendly way what is going to happen in advance.
- On the day of the practice we will notify parents that it is taking place.

6. Appendix 1 –Roles and Responsibilities

Lock-In Manager

This should be the Site Manager. A deputy Lock-In Manager should be designated in case the Lock-in Manager is not on the school site at the time a lockdown is declared. This will be the School Business Manager.

- Alert all staff and pupils of the need to 'lock-in' the school.
- For partial 'lock-ins' this will be achieved via a message from the office or personal message and for full 'lock-ins' this will be via a message from the office by personal message.
- Inform emergency services immediately.
- Inform parents/carers via the schools system.
- Ensure communication networks with all key staff are established.

Classroom Based Staff

- Lock all external doors and windows.
- If full lock-in secure all internal doors – lock or barricade.
- Close and secure all windows.
- Close all curtains or blinds.
- Ensure pupils are in a safe place in the classroom i.e. sheltered by a substantial wall away from doors and windows.
- Ensure you have a means to communicate with the Lock-in Manager.

Office Based and Site Staff

- Ensure all entrances are locked and secured.
- Close and secure all windows.
- Turn off all IT equipment.

7. Appendix 2 – Overview Sheet

Glebe Primary School

'Lock-in' Action

In the event of an incident requiring you to take shelter, stay indoors in the classroom you are in or if you are outside or not in a classroom go to the nearest classroom.

Close/lock all doors and windows. Close all blinds.

If appropriate/safe, Lock-in Manager to lock all classroom doors with a star key until situation is over.

Take a register of adults and children in classroom and relay to office through use of intercom system. Lock-in Manager should collate this information and check against registers and staff/visitor signing in.

Where appropriate, move children to the safest place possible in classroom.

At end of incident: children to return to classroom and class registers to be taken.

Lock-in Manager to check all are safe and send messages to relevant parties.

Lock in manager , and office staff spread the work via the phone line while some staff walk round for those rooms who don't have telephones.

Lock-in Manager to debrief staff and arrange support where necessary.

Lock-in Manager to debrief with Chair of Governors.

9. Appendix 3 – Sample letter to parents/carers

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Emergency Lock-in Procedure

Our primary aim as a school is the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, to support us in achieving this we have many policies in place, including how we would respond to a potential incident either in the community or directly affecting the school.

One of these policies is our 'Lock-in' procedure, the aim of this policy is to support our staff in safeguarding our pupils from a variety of potential hazards that many arise, these include:

1. A reported incident, disturbance in the local community;
2. An intruder on the site;
3. A warning being received regarding a local risk of air pollution (smoke plume, gas cloud etc.);
4. A major fire in the vicinity of the school;
5. The close proximity of a dangerous dog.

Our procedure aims to minimise disruption to the learning environment whilst ensuring the safety of all pupils and staff.

In the event of an emergency that requires the school to be locked down (we call it lock-in) the following actions may be taken, please note this is not an exhaustive list and is being provided as a summary only, exact actions will be dependent on the incident:

- Staff will ensure all pupils are inside the school buildings and lock any outside doors and close any windows that may be open;
- If pupils are outside, staff will bring them back into their classrooms;
- A register will be taken and any pupil not present will be notified to senior staff who will arrange a search for the missing pupil;
- Site and office staff will ensure all external doors are secured and closed;
- Emergency services will be notified;
- A message will be sent to parents and carers via our normal systems to advise of the emergency;
- Pupils will not be released from the school until the all clear is given;
- Parents/Carers MUST NOT try to contact the school or come to the school until the all clear has been given. This can both block essential routes of communications and hamper the emergency services.

We will shortly be carrying out an emergency drill with the staff and pupils to ensure that everyone is clear on what they have to do.

In the unlikely event that we have to put this process into action we need to ensure that parents are aware of the arrangements, as outlined above.