



Ryecroft C.E. Middle School

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Ryecroft C.E. Middle School
Ashbourne Road
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24th June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Enhancing safety in our school

At Ryecroft C.E. Middle School we take safeguarding and safety of our pupils and staff very seriously. It is important that we continue to review all our procedures, taking into account even those events that are very unlikely to occur. As part of this process, I am writing to inform you about new emergency procedures we are putting into place should our school ever need to go into 'Lockdown'. This procedure is also a recommendation of good practice for schools from the Department for Education.

What is a lockdown and when would we carry it out?

A lockdown procedure is a standard health and safety precaution similar to a fire drill.

Our lockdown procedure would be used when there was a threat to the safety of pupils, staff and others in the School and when it is safer for everyone to remain on site than evacuate. The aim is to keep people safe by confining them to a secure place of safety.

Situations where our lockdown procedure may be used include:

- A potentially dangerous person or animal on the school site
- A disturbance or dangerous situation in the local community that could affect the school
- A nearby chemical incident or other risk of air pollution
- An incident related to terrorism

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.

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 follow instructions from the Emergency Services. Parents would be informed in this situation.

If lockdown continued, beyond school hours, parents would be notified of this via a text and the website updated or by emergency services to ensure that appropriate arrangements were in place for the collection of pupils once the lockdown is complete.

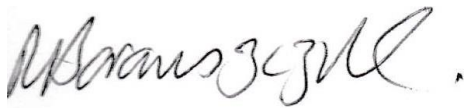
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The Lockdown Policy is available on the school website and all staff have been trained on the procedure. Prior to our first drill, staff will take time to talk to pupils about lockdown procedures and explain why they are important. Information will be delivered through structured lessons embedded in a developmental PSHE curriculum, within the context of risk management and personal safety.

Whilst the chances of being caught up in a gun or knife attack are very small, we know from case studies and testimony of people who have survived attacks that, if followed, this advice can save lives. However, it is crucial that this message is conveyed to young people in a way that is sensitive and not alarmist and pupils will be made to feel that the school is a safe place. Our school site is extremely secure and access is restricted, so we are almost operating on 'partial lockdown' as a normal everyday routine.

Please discuss this with your children and we will continue to update you on all important safety matters.

Yours sincerely



Miss R Baramuszcak
Headteacher