

North Newton Community Primary School

Lockdown Policy 2024 – 2025



Approved by the Governing Body

Chair of Governors: *Kathryn A. Bown*

Date: November 2024

Proposed Date of Future Review: November 2025

The lockdown policy and procedures have been developed to use when responding to an external or internal incident which has the potential to pose a threat to the safety of staff and pupils in the school.

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

- A reported incident or civil disturbance close to the school
- An intruder on the school site
- A major fire in the vicinity of the school
- A warning is being received regarding a risk locally, of air pollution (smoke, gas etc)
- The proximity of a dangerous animal roaming loose

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

There are two levels of lockdown:

'Amber' (Partial) lockdown during which school activities carry on as normal. This is when children and staff will not be allowed to exit the school premises due to an external threat e.g. dangerous animal.

SLT will activate 'Amber' (Partial) lockdown by moving through the main building telling classes Code Amber.

However:

- all external activities will cease immediately, and pupils and staff return to classrooms/resource areas, as appropriate.
- internal doors will remain open to allow free movement within the building.
- all staff will be aware and on alert to be vigilant.
- Badgers children will still be allowed to go to the toilet in Squirrels class area.
- SLT will conduct an ongoing risk assessment based on advice from Emergency Services.
- children and parents would not be aware of the situation in this instance.

'Red' (Full) lockdown during which:

- all staff and children would be inside the building.
- external activities will cease and staff and pupils return to the classrooms/resource areas, whichever is most appropriate.
- external doors, windows and all lockable doors will be secured.
- emergency services are fully involved.
- children and parents would be fully aware of the situation in this instance.

-Badgers children to use Squirrels toilets where deemed safe to do so.

Before either 'lockdown' procedure is implemented, the school will take advice from external emergency services. It may be that an '**Amber**' alert is implemented as a precautionary measure until there is clarity on the level of threat or the situation escalates.

Full Lockdown Procedure

SLT will activate lockdown by moving through the main building telling classes **Code Red.**

1. Staff outside of the school building will be alerted by the school office via **Staff's mobile phone/School mobile**. Pupils will be brought inside as soon as possible unless this endangers them or others. If necessary, they should exit school premises via the side gate and make their way to the village church (as per evacuation policy). They are to remain there until further notice. If the children are on the school field, staff again will be notified via phone, they are to make their way back to school if safe to do so. If this is not possible, children and pupils are to shelter in the far-right hand corner of the field under the hedge and await further instructions.
2. Staff are to ensure all pupils in school remain in their classrooms, ensure the classroom doors are locked (if possible) and blinds closed. Ensure pupils are out of sight, sitting on the floor, under tables in Badgers class or against the walls under the large high windows in Squirrels, Foxes and Hedgehogs.
3. Office staff/Caretaker to ensure external doors and, as necessary, windows are locked (depending on the circumstances, internal classroom doors may also need to be blocked)
4. Once in lockdown mode, staff should take a register and notify the office immediately of any pupils not accounted for and instigate an immediate search for anyone missing, (if reasonably possible).
5. Staff should provide continuous reassurance to pupils and encourage them to keep calm and sit quietly until told it is safe to remove the full lockdown.
6. As appropriate, the Headteacher/school office will establish communication with the Emergency Services as soon as possible and notify Somerset County Council via mobile phone: School's Emergency Phone Number: 01278 662140
7. Parents will be notified as soon as it is practicable to do so via text messaging.
8. Pupils will not be released to parents during a full lockdown.
9. Staff and pupils will remain in lockdown until it has been lifted by a member of SLT or the emergency services. The 'All Clear' signal will be the same sound as the alert. If it is necessary to evacuate the building, the fire alarm will be sounded. (the whole school will then follow the evacuation policy.) The Grab bag will be taken by Headteacher or Office staff.

Communication between parents and the school

School lockdown procedures, especially arrangements for communicating with parents, will be shared via the school website/email/staff mobile. (using staff mobiles dial 141 to ensure the security of your own number).

In the event of a full lockdown, any incident or development will be communicated to parents as soon as is practicable.

Parents will be:

- given enough information about the situation and what will happen, so they are reassured that the school understands their concerns and that it is doing everything possible to ensure children's (and staff's) safety.
- encouraged not to contact the school during a lockdown to ensure staff are free to deal with emergency services and other council senior management support .
- advised not to come to the school site until the emergency is declared closed as their presence may interfere with emergency services work and may even put themselves and others in danger.
- informed when it is safe to pick up their children and where from.

In the event of a prolonged lockdown or a more severe scenario, The Council Press Office may be contacted to assist in the dissemination of information to parents and the media.

Emergency Services

- Lines of communication will be kept open with Emergency Services as they are best placed to offer advice as the situation unfolds.
- The school site may or may not be cordoned off by Emergency Services depending on the risk or threat posed by the incident that has triggered the lockdown.
- Emergency Services will support the decision of the Headteacher regarding the timing of communication to parents. Training and Exercise Situations requiring a school lockdown to be activated are rare. Similar to fire safety, fires in school are not expected to occur but must be prepared to react expeditiously and effectively should the fire alarm sound; as for fire safety, staff and pupils must be familiar and confident with the actions required during lockdown procedure activation. To ensure the required level of confidence and familiarity with the school's lockdown arrangements, the following actions will be taken:
 - **a lockdown drill of both red and amber levels will be undertaken at least once a year.**
 - **all internal lockable doors will be identified, locking mechanisms tested and keys made available.**
 - **communication systems will be tested.**
 - **tabletop exercises with SLT will be held to test procedures.**