

St. Monica's Catholic Primary School Lockdown Policy



‘Let Trust, Respect and Love live here.’

Philosophy

Every child is a unique gift from God with his or her own unique gifts.

At St. Monica's, we strive to ensure that all children are offered the opportunity to develop to their full potential in individual, educational, moral, intellectual and spiritual needs.

Our school aims to be a living community of work and prayer.

St Monica's Catholic Primary School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.

Rationale

As part of our Health and Safety policies and procedures, the school has a Lock Down Policy. On very rare occasions, it may be necessary to seal off the school so that it cannot be entered from the outside. This will ensure that pupils, staff and visitors are safe in situations where there is a hazard in the school grounds or outside the school in the near vicinity.

A lockdown is implemented when there are serious security risks for the premises due to, for example, nearby chemical spillage, proximity of dangerous dogs, serious weather conditions or attempted access by unauthorised person's intent on causing harm/damage.

Notification of Lockdown

Staff will be notified that lock down procedures are to take place immediately on hearing X5 10 second bursts of the school bell.

Procedures:

Follow the CLOSE procedure:

Close all windows and doors

Lock up

Out of sight and minimise movement

Stay silent and avoid drawing attention

Endure - be aware you may be in lock down for some time

1. The above signal will activate a process of children being ushered into the school building as quickly as possible and the locking of the school's classrooms, offices, connecting doors and all outside doors/ shutters where it is possible to remain safe.

2. At the given signal, the children remain in the room they are in and the staff will ensure the windows and doors are closed/locked and screened where possible and children are positioned away from possible sightlines from external windows/doors. Lights, Smart boards and computer monitors to be turned off. Mobile phones are put on silent mode.

3. Children or staff not in class for any reason will proceed to the nearest occupied classroom and remain with that class and class teacher e.g. children using toilets when lockdown procedure is engaged.

4. If practicable, staff should notify the reception by phone that they have entered lock down and identify those children not accounted for.

NO ONE SHOULD MOVE ABOUT THE SCHOOL

5. Staff to support children in keeping calm and quiet.

6. Staff to remain in lock down positions until informed by key staff e.g. Senior Management Team, Chair of Governors or Office Staff in person that there is an all clear.

7. As soon as possible after the lock down, teachers return to their classrooms and conduct a register and notify the reception immediately of any pupils not accounted for.

Staff Roles

1. The yellow lockdown alarm will be activated. Activation points in the main office and the Headteacher's office

2. School office staff to ensure that the office is locked and police called if necessary.

3. The Head or Site Supervisor locks the school's front doors and entrances.

4. Individual teachers/ TAs lock/close classroom door(s) and windows. Nearest adult to check exit doors.

Communication with parents

If necessary, parents will be notified as soon as it is practical to do so via the school's established communication network.

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...'

Depending on the type and severity of the incident, parents may be asked NOT to collect their children from school as it may put them and their child at risk.

Pupils will not be released to parents during a lock down.

Parents will be asked not to call school as this may tie up emergency lines.

If the end of the day is extended due to the lock down, parents will be notified and will receive information about the time and place pupils can be picked up from office staff or emergency services.

A letter to parents will be sent home on the nearest possible day following any serious incident to inform parents of the context of the lockdown and to encourage parents to reinforce with their children the importance of following procedures in these very rare circumstances.

Lock down drills

Lock down practices will take place at least twice a year. Monitoring of practices will take place and staff debriefed for positive reinforcement or to identify required improvements.

Review This policy and procedures will be reviewed annually as a part of the School's Health and Safety procedures.

Lock Down Plan

Management and Control	
Nominated person	Responsibility
Headteacher	Initial contact with the emergency services
Deputy Headteacher	Liaison with parents
Teachers (on a rotating basis)	Pupil control

Signals	
Signal for lockdown	X5 10 second bursts of the school bell
Signal for all-clear	X1 30 second blast of the school bell. Wait in class until told to by SLT, Chair of Governors or office staff.
Teachers (on a rotating basis)	Pupil control

Lockdown	
Specified assembly points	Classroom, Offices, School Hall
Entrance points	Main School Entrance
Communication arrangements	Oral Telephone System Mobile phones
Notes	

Lockdown Plan				
Step	Initial response	Check	Time	Signed
1.	Ensure all pupils are inside.	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2.	Secure all entrance points to the school.	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3.	Dial 999 for each emergency service that the incident requires.	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure staff members take action to increase protection from further danger: Block access points Sit on the floor, under tables or against the wall Keep out of sight and draw curtains to avoid detection Put mobile phones on silent Turn off lights and computers Stay away from windows and doors 	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5.	Ensure that all pupils and staff are aware of an exit point in case an intruder manages to gain access or the room becomes unsafe.	<input type="checkbox"/>		
6.	Check for missing or injured members and pupils if it is safe to do so.	<input type="checkbox"/>		
7.	Remain inside the classroom until the all clear signal has been given or unless told to evacuate by the emergency services.	<input type="checkbox"/>		