



## LOCKDOWN PROCEDURES

### Townville Academy

#### General Statement

*Lockdown is the term given to protecting children and staff by keeping them indoors, in their classrooms or other safe locations. An example of when a lockdown may be appropriate would be in the event of a direct physical threat to staff and children by an armed person in or around the site premises.*

*In most cases this would be a precaution, on notification by the Police, of a threat in the community (Melsonby, 2010/Cumbria 2010). Very occasionally, a threat is present inside the site (Dunblane Primary Site, 1996).*

*Two levels of lockdown are provided in this document.*

#### Partial Lockdown

- This may be as a result of a reported incident to the site or an occurrence that is happening within the site premises.*
- Civil disturbance in the local community with the potential to pose a risk to staff and children in the site.*
- It may also be as a result of a warning being received from a recognised emergency service regarding the risk of air pollution, etc.*

**Alert to staff:** *'Partial Lockdown' will be communicated to all classes and areas of the school by a member of the office team.*

#### Immediate action:

- All outside activity to cease with immediate effect, children and staff to return to the building in a swift and safe manner.*
- All staff and children remain inside the building and **all** external doors and windows are to be locked, with blinds drawn where possible, until further notice. Nominated members of staff that are not directly supervising children are required to perform the task if appropriate to ensure the ongoing safeguarding of the children.*
- Children / staff and visitor register will be taken – the office will contact each area in turn for an attendance report.*
- Childrens movement to the toilet should be restricted and **MUST NOT** occur without adult supervision. unless agreed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.*
- At the discretion of the Senior Leadership Team, free movement within the building may be permitted dependent upon the known information or continued reporting of the incident / circumstances.*

*Each situation is unique and presents differing on-going challenges. Once the children / staff and volunteers*

etc. are accounted for the responsible person, headteacher and delegated member of the senior leadership team, will conduct an on-going dynamic risk assessment basing their decision making primarily on advice received from the Emergency Services. All staff will be updated when applicable, and a written evidence log will be maintained throughout should it be required at a later stage. 'Partial Lockdown' is a precautionary measure and should be recognised that it places the site in a state of readiness (whilst retaining a degree of normality), should the situation be further reported to have escalated.

During the Partial Lockdown procedure, staff will maintain agreed open lines of communication and must not make unnecessary calls until further notice as this may delay the information sharing process to and from the responsible person.

In the event of an Air Pollution Incident being reported, all air vents should be closed / covered (where possible within the premises. If this is not possible, the children / staff should be relocated from the room initially and a further decision is to be made by the responsible person regarding the appropriate room to relocate to and remain.)

The responsible person will remain in contact with the appropriate Emergency Services team(s) and will make future dynamic risk assessment decisions with the assistance and advice of professional bodies regarding the prevailing threat. An evidence log should be completed, should it be required at a later stage.

## **Full Lockdown**

This signifies an immediate threat to the site and may be an escalation of a partial lockdown or a spontaneous incident / event or occurrence in or near to the premises.

**Alert to staff:** 'Full Lockdown' accompanied by 3 blasts of the air horn signifies a 'Full Lockdown' alert and that staff should begin the full lockdown procedure.

### **Immediate action:**

- All children / staff, volunteer's etc. are to rendezvous immediately to a pre agreed area of the premises known by all staff that can ideally accommodate the maximum role numbers. e.g. (Classroom, tutor room, Sports / assembly / dining hall). **These are detailed below.**
- All external doors are to be locked immediately. Classroom doors locked if applicable. Nominated members of staff that are not directly supervising children are required to perform the task if appropriate to ensure the ongoing safeguarding of the children.
- All windows are to be locked, and blinds drawn, (if applicable). Children encouraged to remain quiet and remain out of public glare, (e.g. under a desk or around a corner) until further notice.
- Children / staff and visitor register will be taken – the office will contact each area in turn for an attendance report.

Each situation is unique and presents differing on-going challenges. Once the children / staff and volunteers etc. are accounted for the responsible person will conduct an on-going dynamic risk assessment basing their decision making primarily on advice received from the Emergency Services. All staff will be updated when applicable, and a written evidence log will be maintained throughout should it be required at a later stage.

The lock down procedure will remain in force until it has been established from a member of the Emergency Services that the incident has been successfully resolved and no further risk is posed to the welfare and safety of the children / staff etc. At any time during the lockdown, if the fire alarm sounds an evacuation of the building is required.

*During the lockdown procedure, staff will maintain agreed open lines of communication and must not make unnecessary calls until further notice as this may delay the information sharing process to and from the responsible person.*

*Examples of using discreet communication methods should they be necessary to update the emergency services:*

- *Staff to take mobile phones with them so that they can access the schools Emergency WhatsApp group. This will be used as an avenue to inform and await further instructions. Mobile phones must not be used for any other purpose during this time as this may alert others to the location of the group or reduce battery life.*
- *The headteacher, or delegated member of the senior leadership team or office will be responsible for communication with parents. Individual staff members should not communicate with others off-site to alleviate any undue anxiety.*

### **Communication between parents and the site**

*Site Lockdown procedures, especially the arrangements for communicating to parents, should be routinely shared with parents / guardians either by newsletter or via the site's website.*

*Should a Lockdown occur, it is advised that developments are communicated to parents / guardians as soon as is practicable and in some cases in agreement with the emergency services and the most senior member of staff overseeing the incident. Parents will naturally be concerned, anxious and all accurate information releases will assist to alleviate undue anxiety.*

*Parents / guardians should be given enough information to enable them to understand the potential outcome and when possible time frames so that they:*

- *Are reassured that the site / emergency services understands their concern for their child's welfare, and that everything possible is being completed to ensure their safety.*
- *Parents / guardians must be made aware to refrain from directly calling the site's office. Calling the site will tie up telephone lines that will be required to be used by the responsible person and the emergency services.*
- *Parents / guardians must refrain from initially attending the site. This may interfere with the emergency provider's access / investigation and may put themselves and others in danger.*
- *Parent / guardians must wait patiently until a safe and satisfactory outcome has been achieved and agreed by all parties, where a designated safe area will be identified for the safe handing over of the children to their parents / guardians.*

*During the initial "breaking news" of the incident it is vital that all parents are reassured regarding the welfare and safety of their children is paramount and that the matter is being dealt with by the emergency services, the Academy and Local Authority jointly to resolve the matter as soon as possible with little impact to the children and the wider community.*

*However it must also be stressed that at this time **"the site is in a full lockdown procedure. During this period the switchboard and entrances will be un-manned, external doors will be locked and no person is allowed in or out of the premises until further notice."***

### **Emergency Services**

*It is vital that the communication lines remain open to the Emergency Services at all times, they are best*

placed to offer advice / assistance as a situation develops. A decision may be taken to cordon off the premises partially or as a whole by the Emergency Services. This will be dependent on the severity of the incident that has led to a Lockdown procedure taking effect.

The emergency services will support the responsible person and Accomplish MAT in the decision making processes and the timing of communication to parents, the press etc.

Should a prolonged lockdown incident occur, the local authority and its partners have the capacity to provide humanitarian assistance by establishing a Reception Centre for friends and family outside of the cordoned area and other pre-determined facilities.

### Post Lockdown

Further assistance will be provided by the Local Authority and its partners in dealing with the effects of the incident to all persons involved.

<b>Signed:</b>	C Burden
<b>Date:</b>	04/07/24
<b>Review Date:</b>	

### Rendezvous Points for use during a Full Lockdown.

<b>Children and staff</b>	<b>Rendezvous Point</b>	<b>Rendezvous site preparation</b>
KS1 children and staff. + Deputy Head Teacher	PE and Table store	Hall blinds drawn. Tables, benches and other items which can be removed should be into the area outside the kitchen by support staff leaving a small entrance path to the stores rooms whilst providing as much floor spaces in the stores for children to sit. Once this area has been cleared children should be moved swiftly by the class teachers to the area. Crawling quietly along the corridor if needed to avoid being seen at the windows.
Nursery children and staff. + Headteacher	EYFS Storeroom	Blinds drawn. Floor space cleared.
Reception Children and staff. + School Business Manager	School Office: - cupboards and under desks.	Blinds drawn. Floor space cleared. Cupboards are to be used to provide as much space as possible for children. Outside doors to be locked.

The Headteacher, deputy headteacher and school business manager must hold a school walkie talkie programmed to channel 9 throughout the procedure. This member of staff will ensure a laptop and power cable is taken with them to the Rendezvous Point.