

Ysgol St Joseph's



Lockdown Policy 2025

Policy Valid until Spring 2029

For and on behalf of the

Board of Governors:

Headteacher:

Date:

The aim of this policy is to ensure that all practical steps are taken to secure the health, safety and welfare of all persons using the school.

The policy is in three main parts:

- The policy statement, which is the commitment of the Governors to ensure a safe and healthy place of work and to employ safe systems of work;
- The organisation functions for implementing the policy;
- The areas for carrying out the functions of this policy and monitoring the effectiveness of the policy including notification, procedures, staff roles, communication with parents; drills.

The lockdown procedure must be communicated to staff and pupils. The lockdown procedure template (appendix 1) should be displayed in staff rooms.

Statement of Policy

The Governing Body is committed to ensuring a high standard of health, safety and welfare for all staff, pupils, visitors and contractors, by ensuring the following:

- a) A procedure to be taken if the school is faced with any external or internal incident which has the potential to pose a threat to the safety and welfare of all persons on site;
- b) Aim to minimize disruption to the learning environment whilst ensuring the safety of all pupils and staff;
- c) Encouragement for staff to participate in the promotion of health and safety standards in the school;
- d) This policy will be reviewed and updated as appropriate in conjunction with Conwy LEA's "Critical Incident Emergency Procedures".

Organisation Functions

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

- An intruder on the school site;
- A reported incident/risk in the local community;
- A major fire in the vicinity of the school;
- Close proximity of a dangerous dog/animal roaming loose.

If the school is faced with a threat that prevents the evacuation of pupils from the building, the school should take steps to isolate pupils and staff from danger by instituting the school lockdown policy. However, if someone is taken hostage on the premises, the school should seek to evacuate the rest of the site.

Notification of Lockdown

Staff must follow the lockdown procedure immediately once the recognised signal begins.

The signal will be the school bell (*NB - the bell is not used for any other purpose*)

Procedures

1. All pupils to be ushered into the school building if on the playgrounds as quickly as possible and the locking of all outside doors where it is possible to remain safe.
2. Pupils or staff not in a class for any reason will proceed to the nearest occupied classroom and remain with that class and class teacher e.g. pupils using toilets.
3. All pupils to remain in the room they are in.
4. Staff to secure room and take action to increase protection from attack - Lock and barricade doors and windows. Staff to close blinds/curtains/screens.
5. Staff to position pupils away from possible sightlines from external windows/doors e.g. sit on the floor/against a wall.
6. Turn off lights, fans, whiteboards and computer monitors.
7. Mobile phones must be turned off or placed in silent mode
8. If practicable, staff should notify the Head or other allocated staff member via the Whole School WhatsApp group that they have entered lockdown and those pupils not accounted for.

NO ONE SHOULD MOVE ABOUT THE SCHOOL.

9. Staff to support pupils in keeping calm and quiet and out of sight.
10. Staff to remain in lockdown positions until informed otherwise by Headteacher /Emergency Services.
11. After the lockdown, teachers return to their base classrooms and conduct a roll call and notify the Headteacher or other allocated staff member immediately of any pupils not accounted for.

Staff Roles

1. Headteacher or other allocated staff member ensure that their office(s) are locked and police called immediately.
2. Headteacher or other allocated staff member locks the school's front doors and entrances.
3. Individual Teachers/HLTAs/TAs lock/close classroom door(s) and windows and turn off lights.
4. Catering Staff to lock back door to kitchen and turn off lights.

5. Headteacher other allocated staff member to notify the local authority of the incident by calling **Education Services on 01492 575031 or out of office hours Galw Gofal 0300 123 6688 / 0300 123 3079.**
6. The LEA will convene their Critical Incident Team if deemed necessary.
7. Following a lockdown (excluding drills) Headteacher to complete a CAMMS Incident record.

NO INDIVIDUALS MUST LEAVE THE PREMISES DURING LOCKDOWN.

Communication with parents

1. Parents must be notified as soon as it is practical to do so via the school's established communication network.
2. Parents should be reassured that the school understands their concern for their child's welfare, and that it is doing everything possible to ensure his/her safety.
3. Pupils will not be released to parents during a lockdown. This can interfere with emergency provider's access to the school and may even put themselves and others in danger.
4. Parents will be asked not to call the school as this may tie up emergency lines.
5. If the end of the day is extended, due to the lockdown, parents will be notified by the school or emergency services with information about the time and place pupils can be picked up.
6. A letter to parents will be sent home on the nearest possible day following any serious incident to inform parents of context of the lockdown and to encourage parents to reinforce with their children the importance of following procedures in these very rare circumstances.

Drills:

It is vital that the school's lockdown procedures are familiar to all members of staff. To achieve this, a drill will take place at a minimum of once a year to ensure everyone knows exactly what to do in such a situation. Monitoring of practices will take place and debriefed to staff so improvements can be made.

Prior to the drill parents should be informed of the procedure and that a drill is taking place.