Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

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Lockdown Statement

The safety of staff and pupils is always going to be the most important consideration in any of our schools. Lockdown procedures are increasingly being implemented in educational facilities across the UK. While the risk of attacks on schools may be rare, it is essential to have these procedures in place to protect children from harm. Our schools will only lock down on a tangible threat and/or advice/instruction from the police or other recognised organisation. Lockdown will be used as a safety precaution.

The lockdown procedures will have been shared with your child/ren and it is important that you reassure them that they need to follow the instructions of staff in the event that the school should implement a lockdown. It is important that they do not use their mobile phones to contact home, as we would not wish to cause any undue worry.

If a lockdown in any of our schools is necessary, you will receive a message from the school at the earliest opportunity. This doesn't mean that there is any immediate threat. The safety of your children and staff is the first priority and therefore, the school will communicate with you as soon as it is safe to do so.

Parents are requested not to go to, or call the school and should not expect their child to call them. To be clear, pupils will not be released to parents during a lockdown, as this could be dangerous. Communication will be done via the school website where updates will be provided. If your child's stay at school is extended beyond the normal school day, you will receive information about the time and place that you can pick up your child.

All schools have robust and tested lockdown procedures which are a sensible and proportionate response to any external or internal incident which has the potential to pose a threat to the safety of staff and students in the school. Our procedures aim to minimise disruption to the learning environment, whilst ensuring the safety of all pupils and staff.

Where appropriate, arrangements and information regarding the Trust's Lockdown Policy will be shared with parents via a secure communication method. The school will be mindful not to share information regarding the school's procedures in a way that would mean third parties unrelated to the school, would be able to access them.

Schools may use lockdown procedures for a number of reasons. They are not necessarily related to terrorism or violent conduct. In some cases, lockdown may be required because of another issue in the community - the release of dangerous gases from an industrial plant for example, or an accident on an adjacent road.

If schools intend to practise lockdown, they will generally tell parents and pupils in advance. Practice will ensure that all involved know what the procedures are if a lockdown is required.

If you would like further information, please contact your child's/children's school.