



Balksbury Federation Lockdown Statement

Introduction

Whilst events that require a 'lockdown' incident are rare, Balksbury Federation takes the Health, Safety and Welfare of its staff, children and visitors seriously and believes that such contingency plans should be in place. We are implementing this statement to ensure that in the event that children, staff and visitors are faced with hazards in the school grounds, children and staff may be locked within buildings for their own safety. This will usually occur if there is a dangerous intruder on school grounds but may also occur in the event of a hazardous situation e.g. chemical spill.

Key Aims

- To provide a safe and secure environment for our children, staff and visitors
- To establish protocols and procedures that effectively monitors and manages a potentially dangerous situation.

Staff and Visitors

It is of vital importance that each school's lockdown procedures are familiar to members of the leadership team, senior leadership team, teaching staff, non-teaching staff and visitors. To achieve this, a lockdown drill will be undertaken at least once a year. Depending on their age, children should also be aware of the plan. The federation will communicate with parents so that they will know that the federation has a lockdown statement and procedures are in place (the statement will be placed on the federation website).

Parents

If lockdown occurs, parents will be notified as soon as it is practical to do so. However, parents are requested not to come to the school, as children will not be released to parents during lockdown. Parents are also asked not to call the school, as this may tie up emergency lines that must remain open. Parents should not expect their child to call them nor should they call children's mobiles as the lock-down situation requires silence in order not to alert an intruder to the presence of children and staff in classrooms.

Emergency Services will support the decision of the Executive Headteacher (or Deputy Headteachers in their absence) regarding the timing of communication to parents. Please be assured in the event of a lockdown that the federation's overriding consideration is the safety and well-being of all children and school personnel.

Drills

The Executive Headteacher (or Leadership Team member on site in their absence) shall be responsible for holding drills with staff and/or children to ensure that correct procedure is known and implemented. It may not be practical to test all aspects of the arrangements with children.

Review

This statement will be presented to the Full Governing Body and reviewed every 2 years but will be reviewed by the Executive Headteacher, and updated if necessary, after each occurrence.

Review date: Summer 2026