

## **11.3 Lockdown Policy**

Most procedures for handling an emergency are focussed on an event happening in the building. However, in some situations you will be advised to stay put (lock-down) rather than evacuate. 'Lock-down' of a building/group of buildings is intended to secure and protect occupants in the proximity of an immediate threat. By controlling movement in an area, emergency services can contain and handle the situation more effectively.

- The setting manager assesses the likelihood of an incident happening based on their location. If it is not urgent Call 101 to contact the local police, if it is urgent then call 999.
- In the event of terrorist attack or serious event, we would call 999 for urgent assistance.
- Staff rehearse simple 'age appropriate' actions with the children such as staying low to the floor, keeping quiet and listening to instructions in the same way that fire procedures are practiced. Lock-down must be rehearsed and recorded annually.
- The setting manager is aware of the current terrorist alert level, as available at [www.mi5.gov.uk/threat-levels](http://www.mi5.gov.uk/threat-levels).
- We follow any additional advice issued by the local authority.
- Emergency procedures are reviewed and added to if needed.
- Information about this procedure is shared with parents and all staff are aware of their role during 'lockdown'.
- An email and notification message (on our closed Facebook group) is issued to parents as soon as possible, when lockdown is confirmed.

### **Suggested wording for parent message**

*Due to an incident we have been advised by the emergency services to secure the premises and stay put until we are given the 'all clear'. Please do not attempt to collect your child until it is safe to do so. We will let you know as soon as we are able to when that is likely to be. In the meantime we need to keep our telephone lines clear and would appreciate your cooperation in not calling unless it is vital that you speak to us.*

## **Lock-down procedures**

If an incident happens the setting manager will act quickly to assess the likelihood of immediate danger. In most cases the assumption will be that it is safer to stay put and place the setting into 'lockdown' until the emergency services arrive. As soon as the emergency services arrive at the scene staff comply with their instructions.

### **During 'lock-down'**

- Manager to announce the setting is in LOCK DOWN
- Staff and children stay in their designated areas if it is safe to do so.
- Doors and windows are secured until further instruction is received.
- Curtains and blinds are closed where possible.
- Staff and children stay away from windows and doors.
- Children are encouraged to stay low and keep calm where possible.
- Staff tune into a local radio station for more information.
- Staff do NOT make non-essential calls on mobile phones or landlines.
- If the fire alarm is activated, staff and children remain in their designated area and await further instructions from emergency services, unless the fire is in their area. In which case, they will move to the next room/area, following usual fire procedures.

The door will not be opened once it has been secured until the manager is officially advised "all clear" or is certain it is emergency services at the door.

### **During lockdown staff do NOT:**

- assemble in large open areas
- call 999 again unless there is immediate concern for their safety, the safety of others, or they feel they have critical information that must be passed on

### **Following lockdown:**

- Staff will cooperate with emergency services to assist in an orderly evacuation.
- Staff will ensure that they have the register and children's details.
- Staff or children who have witnessed an incident will need to tell the police what they saw. The police may require other individuals to remain available for questioning.
- In the event of an incident it is inevitable that parents will want to come to the setting and collect their children immediately. They will be discouraged from doing so, until the emergency services give the 'all clear'. Staff will be always acting on the advice of the emergency services.

## Recording and reporting

- The setting manager reports the lockdown to the CEO or Chair of Trustees as soon as possible. In some situations, this may not be until after the event.
- A record is completed as soon as possible.

## Further guidance

Members of the public should always remain alert to the danger of terrorism and report any suspicious activity to the police on 999 or the anti-terrorist hotline: 0800 789 321.

For non-emergency, call the police on 101.

Policy Name	Terrorist threat/attack and Lock – Down Policy
Version Number	V1 – New policy 2024
This policy was developed by	
These people were consulted/involved in developing the policy	Member of SLT Governance Group
This Policy was adopted by	Trustee Board
Date	September 2024
Signed	
Name	Bisi Oyekanmi
Role	Chairperson
Next review date	February 2027

