

Dear Parent/Carer,

Enhanced safety in our school Lockdown Procedure

At Forge Valley School we take the safeguarding and safety of all our pupils and staff very seriously. It is important that we continue to review all our procedures and identify and correct any deficiencies. Following the unplanned lockdown in September 2023, Forge Valley School have made a number of changes, notably around communication to parent/carers.

I am writing to inform you that we will be practicing this procedure w/c 29th April 2024.

What is a lockdown and when would we carry it out?

A lockdown procedure is a standard health and safety procedure, similar to a fire drill. Our lockdown procedure would be used when there is a threat to the safety of pupils, staff and others in the school, and when it is safer for everyone to remain in school than evacuate. The aim is to keep people safe by confining them to a secure place.

Situations where our lockdown procedure may be used include:

- > A potentially dangerous person or animal on the school site
- > A disturbance or dangerous situation in the local community that could affect the school
- > A nearby chemical incident or other risk of air pollution
- > An incident related to terrorism

Instructions for parents in the event of an actual lockdown (not a practice drill)

- > Parents and carers will be informed that the school is in lockdown via the school's website, MCAS, text message and social media as soon as is practically possible
- > Parents and carers should not attempt to call or come in to the school, as this may hinder the school's effort to contact and work with the emergency services
- > Parents and carers should not discuss the event on social media, as this may spread false information and create panic
- > In the event of the lockdown continuing beyond school hours, the school website home page and social media platforms will be updated with the latest information

Prior to our drill, staff will take time to talk to pupils about lockdown procedures and explain why they are important. They will reassure pupils after the drill that they are safe, and will emphasise that practicing procedures like this will make sure the school remains a safe place to learn. Pupils will also be reminded to not contact parents and carers during the lockdown procedure.

I must stress again this is simply a practice, so in the unlikely event of such a situation, our pupils and staff are fully prepared.

If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ashley Snelson – Business Manager (asnelson@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk).

Yours faithfully,



Dale Barrowclough
Headteacher