



Lockdown in Exams Policy

Ludlow Church of England School

Introduction

A lockdown may be required in the following situations (this is not an exhaustive list)

- an incident or civil disturbance in the local community which poses a risk
- an intruder on the site with the potential to pose a risk
- local risk of air pollution, such as a smoke plume or gas cloud
- a major fire in the vicinity
- a dangerous animal roaming loose
- an internal threat from a student
- any other external or internal incident which has the potential to pose a threat

Where a lockdown may be required when conducting examinations, the focus will be:

- the welfare and safety of candidates and exams staff
- maintaining the integrity and security of the examination/assessment process

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm the arrangements at Ludlow Church of England School for dealing with a lockdown when examinations are being conducted.

Depending on the nature of the incident, centres may also decide to evacuate, invacuate (an inward evacuation) or use a protected space(s). However, this policy focuses specifically upon the actions, roles and responsibilities during an exams-related lockdown.

Lockdown procedures

A Lockdown procedure will be signalled by a series of short rings of the school bell system, over a sustained period of 1-2 minutes. It will be accompanied by an information email message to all staff, informing them of the situation and whether we are in a Partial or Full Lockdown. The Exams Officer will communicate this to Invigilating staff via text message. All staff must read this and follow the instructions given for the specific incident. There are two levels of response to the alarm being sounded – a Partial Lockdown, signalling the need to move people inside and close windows and doors (i.e. in the event of an environmental danger); a Full Lockdown is required in the event of a threat on the school site, when further action is required.

Where a full lockdown is required, the following procedures will be employed at Ludlow Church of England School:

Before an examination

As candidates are entering/waiting to enter the examination room Invigilators will:

- instruct candidates to enter the examination room immediately
- instruct candidates to remain silent, hide under desks or sit against a wall/around a corner but not near the door and to ensure mobile phones are on silent and non-vibrate mode
- lock all windows and close any/all curtains/blinds
- switch off all lights
- lock all doors and/or use tables, or any other furniture, to barricade the entrance to the room
- take an attendance register/head count if possible
- if the threat is a chemical or toxic release) instruct candidates to cover their nose and mouth (their own clothing can be used) and attempt to use anything to hand to seal up cracks around doors and any vents into the room
- where safe/possible, not leave the examination question papers unattended/out of sight

A senior leader/authorised person will be present around the examination room(s) area(s) and where safe/possible, communicate the situation to the Exams Officer (via mobile phone on silent and non-vibrate mode)

The Exams Officer will collate the information from all examination rooms and forward this to the Head of Centre immediately. The Head of Centre will make informed decisions on alerting parents/carers, awarding bodies and emergency services

During an examination

When candidates are in the examination room invigilators will:

- tell candidates to stop writing immediately and close their answer booklets
- collect the attendance register
- make a note of the time when the examination was suspended

- instruct candidates to remain silent, leave all examination materials on their desks and hide under desks
- where safe/possible, communicate (via mobile phone) the situation to the exams officer (ensuring that all mobile phones are on silent and non-vibrate mode)
- lock all windows and close any/all curtains/blinds
- switch off all lights
- lock all doors and/or use tables, or any other furniture, to barricade the entrance to the room
- (if the threat is a chemical or toxic release) instruct candidates to cover their nose and mouth (their own clothing can be used) and attempt to use anything to hand to seal up cracks around doors and any vents into the room
- where safe/possible, not leave the examination question papers unattended/out of sight

Where safe/possible, the exams office/officer will collate the information from all examination rooms and forward this to the Head of Centre immediately. The Head of Centre will make informed decisions on alerting parents/carers, awarding bodies and emergency services

If appropriate, where safe/possible, and following instruction from the appropriate authority, the Exams Officer and/or invigilators will initiate the emergency evacuation procedure.

Where safe/possible, the Exams Officer will collect all examination question papers and materials for safe/secure storage following advice from the appropriate awarding body/bodies

After an examination

As candidates are leaving the examination room invigilators will:

- stop dismissing candidates from the examination room
- instruct candidates who have left to re-enter the examination room
- instruct candidates to remain silent and hide under desks/tables
- where safe/possible, communicate (via mobile phone) the situation to the exams officer (ensuring that all mobile phones are on silent and non-vibrate mode)
- lock all windows and close any/all curtains/blinds
- switch off all lights
- lock all doors and/or use tables, or any other furniture, to barricade the entrance to the room
- (if the threat is a chemical or toxic release) instruct candidates to cover their nose and mouth (their own clothing can be used) and attempt to use anything to hand to seal up cracks around doors and any vents into the room
- where safe/possible, not leave the examination question papers unattended/out of sight

Where safe/possible, the Exams Officer will collate the information from all examination rooms and forward this to the Head of Centre immediately. The Head of Centre will make informed decisions on alerting parents/carers, awarding bodies and emergency services

Ending a lockdown

The lockdown will be ended by authorisation of emergency service officer/Exams Officer/Head of Centre entering the examination room.

Invigilators will undertake a head count/register and confirm attendance with the Exams Officer

Where applicable and if advised to do so by a senior leader/Head of Centre, if there is sufficient time (and following JCQ regulations), candidates may be allowed to restart their examination.

Invigilators will:

- ask candidates to return to their desks, remind them they are under formal examination conditions and allow a settling down period
- allow candidates the full working time remaining for their examination
- recalculate the revised finish time(s)
- tell the candidates to open their answer booklets and re-start their examination
- amend the revised finish time(s) on display to candidates
- note how long the lockdown lasted on the exam room incident log (to later inform a report to the awarding body/bodies)

The Exams Officer will:

- safely/securely store all collected exam papers and materials pending awarding body advice/guidance
- ensure appropriate follow-up is undertaken after the incident, reporting the incident to the awarding body and the actions taken, where this may be applicable
- where this may be applicable, ensure a full report of the incident is produced and retained on file if required by an awarding body
- where this may be applicable, ensure an online application for special consideration is submitted to the relevant awarding body where candidates have been disadvantaged

At the earliest immediate opportunity, the Head of Centre will ensure that any breach of question paper security or malpractice is reported to the awarding body.

Where applicable/possible/available, the senior leader/Exams Officer will:

- discuss any alternative examination sittings with the awarding body/bodies
- offer, arrange and provide support services to staff and candidates

At the earliest opportunity, the senior leader/Head of Centre will prepare a communication to parents/carers advising them of events (including relevant actions and outcomes).

Where possible, exams staff and candidates will be invited to attend an assembly lead by the Head of Centre to discuss the lockdown and offer ongoing support. If this is not possible, communications will be provided via a centre text/email/newsletter and information uploaded to the centre website.

Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the Head of Centre is to:

- Ensure that a dedicated lockdown alarm tone is in place and recognised by all staff and candidates
- Ensure candidates are aware of the procedures relating to a lockdown, particularly those arriving late for an examination who cannot access the examination room due to it being locked down
- Ensure all candidates and staff are aware of a possible exit point in case an intruder manages to gain access, or the room becomes unsafe
- Provide written lockdown procedures for examination room/invigilator use
- Inform the relevant emergency service(s) immediately in the case of any potential threat to the safety of exams staff and candidates

The role of the Exams Officer is to:

- Train invigilators in the centre's lockdown procedures (this should also include identifying all access and egress points within exam rooms, an awareness of the design of the locking device within each room and if there is more than one invigilator, whose role it would be to secure the exam room)
- Where safe/possible, liaise with senior leaders/invigilators in all examination rooms during a lockdown
- Assist with lockdown training for staff and candidates where applicable to the conducting of examinations

The role of the invigilator is to:

- Be aware of the centre's lockdown procedure
- Complete attendance registers as soon as possible so candidates can be identified in the event of a lockdown
- Where safe/possible, to communicate with the exams office/officer during a lockdown to confirm the situation in a particular examination room
- Where safe/possible, not leave the examination question papers and candidates' scripts unattended/out of sight

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that a lockdown during the conducting of examinations at Ludlow Church of England School is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

Signed: P Hearle
Position: Headteacher

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