

Examination Lockdown Policy

This policy was reviewed in: **October 2023**

This policy is due to be reviewed in: **October 2024**

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name(s)
Head of Centre	Helen Ness-Gifford, Headmistress
Examinations Officer	Shula Hodge, Examinations Officer
Senior Leader(s)	Deputy Head Academic, Deputy Head Pastoral, Assistant Head Academic, Assistant Head Operations, Bursar, Assistant Head, Digital Strategy

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The purpose of the policy

This policy details the measures taken at Pipers Corner School in the event of a centre lockdown during the conducting of examinations. Reference is made to the School's 'Emergency Policy and Plan' which is available to be read in the Policies area of SharePoint.

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 examinations-related lockdown.

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
- internal threat from a student
- a dangerous animal roaming loose
- any other external or internal incident which has the potential to pose a threat to the safety of examination staff and candidates

Pipers Corners School has devised lockdown procedures during the conduct of examinations after consulting ProtectUK guidance.

In the event of a lockdown during an examination the focus before, during and after an examination will be:

- training staff engaged/involved in the conducting of examinations
- how to achieve an effective lockdown
- implementing Run, Hide, Tell principles
- the welfare and safety of examination candidates and Centre staff engaged in the conducting of examinations
- maintaining the integrity and security of the examinations/assessments process
- how to achieve an effective lockdown
- how to let people know what's happening
- maintaining the integrity and security of the examinations/assessments process

Roles and Responsibilities

Head of Centre

- To ensure that a dedicated lockdown alarm tone is in place and recognised by all staff and candidates
- To ensure that all staff involved in the conducting of examinations are trained in how to raise the alarm for a lockdown, act effectively and made aware of their responsibilities
- To arrange appropriate training for all examination related staff in lockdown procedures
- To ensure that 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 in lockdown.
- To ensure that all candidates and staff are aware of an exit point in case an intruder manages to gain access, or the examination room becomes unsafe
- To provide written lockdown procedures for examination room/invigilator use
- To inform the relevant Emergency Services immediately in the case of any potential threat to the safety of examination staff and candidates

Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

- To have accountability for all examination staff and candidates taking examinations during a lockdown
- To run training/drills for examination candidates on lockdown procedures
- To inform parents/carers about the centre's Lockdown policy in relation to the conducting of examinations

- To have a presence around examination room areas prior to the start of each examination session
- To liaise with the appropriate authorities and awarding bodies regarding candidates taking examinations during a lockdown
- To use the examination room attendance register(s) to compile a list of all candidates not accounted for

Examinations Officer

- To train invigilators in the Centre's lockdown procedure this should also include identifying all access and egress points within examination 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 examination room
- Where safe/possible, to liaise with SLT/invigilators in all examination rooms during a lockdown
- To assist with Lockdown training for staff and students where applicable to the conducting of examinations

Invigilators

- To be aware of the centre's lockdown procedure
- To 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 Examination Officer during a lockdown to confirm the situation in a particular examination room
- To quickly and physically secure access/egress points
- To be aware of an effective communication system to inform authorities of the situation

Lockdown procedure

Before an examination

If a lockdown is required as candidates are entering/waiting to enter the examination room, the following procedure will be employed:

- A member of the Senior Leadership Team will be present around examination room areas
- Candidates will be instructed to enter the examination room immediately
- Candidates will be instructed to remain silent, hide under exam 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
- Where safe/possible, the Senior Leadership Team member will communicate (via mobile phone/walkie talkie) the situation to the Examinations Officer (ensuring that all mobile phones/walkie talkies are on silent and non-vibrate mode)
- Where safe/possible, The Examinations Officer will collate the information from all examination rooms and forward this to the Head of Centre immediately
- Invigilators will:
 - lock all windows and close all curtains/blinds
 - switch off all lights
 - lock all doors and/or use tables, or any other furniture, to barricade the entrance to the examination 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
- The Head of Centre will make informed decisions on alerting parents/carers, awarding bodies and emergency services

During an examination

If a lockdown is required during the examination/when candidates are in the examination room, the following procedure will be employed:

- Invigilators will:
 - tell candidates to stop writing immediately and close their answer booklets
 - collect the attendance register
 - make a note of 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/walkie talkie) the situation to the Examinations Officer (ensuring that all mobile phones/walkie talkies are on 'silent' 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 examination 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 and candidates' scripts unattended/out of sight
- Where safe/possible, the Examinations 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 centre policy, the Examinations Officer (or invigilators in the absence of the Examinations Officer) will initiate the emergency evacuation procedure
- Where safe and possible, The Examinations Officer will collect all examination papers and materials for safe/secure storage following advice from the appropriate awarding bodies

After an examination

If a lockdown is required after the examination/as candidates are leaving the examination room, the following procedure will be employed:

- Invigilators will:
 - stop dismissing candidates from the examination room
 - instruct candidates who have left the room to re-enter the examination room
 - instruct candidates to remain silent and hide under desks/tables
 - where safe/possible, communicate (via mobile phone/walkie talkie) the situation to the Examinations Officer (ensuring that all mobile phones/walkie talkies 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 examination 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 and candidates' scripts unattended/out of sight
- Where safe/possible, the Examinations Officer will collate the information from all examination rooms and forward this to the Head of Centre immediately

Ending a lockdown

- The lockdown will be ended by either
 - the sound of a defined alarm, or

- the identification/authorisation of Emergency Service officers/Senior Leadership Team/Head of Centre entering each examination room
- A specific word or phrase may be used to confirm that the instruction to end the lockdown is genuine
- Invigilators will undertake a head count/register and confirm attendance with the Examinations Officer/Senior Leadership Team
- Where applicable and if advised to do so by Senior Leadership Team/Head of Centre, and following JCQ guidelines, if there is sufficient time remaining, candidates may restart their examination
- Invigilators will then:
 - 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 to do 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 examination room incident log (to later inform a report to the awarding body/bodies and where relevant, any centre-wide lockdown recording form/log)
- The Examinations Officer will:
 - Safely/securely store all collected examination papers and materials pending awarding body advice/guidance.
 - Where this may be applicable: ensure the appropriate follow-up is undertaken after the incident, reporting the incident to the awarding body and the actions taken, where this maybe applicable.
 - Where this maybe applicable, ensure a full report of the incident is produced and retained on file if required by an awarding body.
 - Where this maybe applicable, ensure an online application for special consideration is submitted to the 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, Senior Leadership Team/Examinations 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, Senior Leadership Team/Head of Centre will prepare a communication to parents/carers advising them of events (including relevant actions and outcomes)
- Where possible, examination staff and candidates will be invited to attend an assembly led 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