

Dormston School Lockdown

Working together to reassure parents/carers - What happens during a lockdown?

What is a lockdown?

A lockdown is a precautionary measure in response to a threat directly to the school or in the surrounding community. In a lockdown:

- All school activities are moved indoors.
- Depending on the type of lockdown, interior and exterior doors on the site are locked.
- No one is allowed to enter or exit the building.
- Parents may not come to the school during a lockdown.
- Parents are also discouraged from calling the school directly. Additional calls hinder the ability of staff to respond to the primary task: keeping everyone safe.

There are two lockdown codes

Partial lockdown – used when there's a danger in the surrounding community, i.e. police searching for a criminal suspect in the area, air pollution or major fire.

Full Lockdown – used when there's a direct threat to the school or in the immediate area of the school.

How will I know if my child's school is on lockdown?

Once a lockdown is put into place, police and school administrators work together to first ensure the safety of everyone on the school site. Once the situation has been stabilised, a phone message, email *and/ or groupcall* will be sent to parents/carers to inform them that the school was placed on a lockdown, the nature of the incident, and about how long the lockdown was in place.

In larger emergencies, such as an Emergency Lockdown or lockdowns that affect numerous schools, the school will issue an emergency phone message and update the local media as the situation develops.

An emergency group call message will be sent to phone numbers that parents/carers have provided to the school. Letters are usually sent home with pupils at the end of the day, or the following day if the lockdown happened close to dismissal.

Why didn't I receive a phone message?

Each situation differs in the level of severity and how it impacts the school day and families. For instance, if a Partial Lockdown is put into place but is lifted after just a few minutes with minimal impact to the school day, the Head Teacher may decide to send a letter home for information purposes.

In a more severe Emergency Lockdown, parents will receive multiple forms of communication. This could include multiple groupcalls, as well as written letters after the incident. During an Emergency Lockdown, parents are also encouraged to watch or listen to local media for updates.

Please ensure Dormston School has your most up-to-date emergency contact information on hand.

Can I come to the school and take my child home?

During a lockdown, the school is a secure area. School officials and law enforcement are working together to keep everyone safe, and no one is allowed to enter or exit the school. To ensure everyone's safety we ask that parents please refrain from coming to the school site during a lockdown. Once the all-clear is given, pupils and staff will be permitted to enter or exit the school again.