

BEREWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



'Safe and Secure' School Policy (formerly known as lockdown policy)

Summer 2021

Written by School	June 2021
Responsible Person	Head teacher
Responsible Committee	Full Governing Body
Ratified by GB	13 th July 2021
Next Review	June 2022



BEREWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

A distinctive vision

At Berewood Primary School we see education as a journey of discovery to fire the imagination, to establish a sense of self, and to gain the confidence to take full part in the wider world.

An ethos of local partnership

Berewood Primary School and the University of Chichester Academy Trust share the belief that education has the power to transform society. Our school is deeply rooted in its locality and encourages the involvement and interest of parents and the community, recognising that strong and vibrant communities have partnership and inclusion at their heart.

SAFE AND SECURE SCHOOL POLICY

Full safe and secure and partial safe and secure procedures should be seen as a sensible and proportionate response to any external or internal incident which has the potential to pose a threat to the safety of staff, pupils, parents or visitors. Procedures should aim to minimise disruption to the learning environment whilst ensuring the safety of all pupils and staff. This

may also include where there is a need to restrict the movement of pupils around the school environment.

Upon hearing the alert for a 'safe and secure' school the procedures for a full safe and secure school will be implemented (worst case scenario). As soon as possible staff to be informed if this can be reduced to a partial 'safe and secure' school where a full 'safe and secure' school is not required. 'Safe and secure' school procedures may be activated in response to any number of situations, but some of the more typical might be:

- A warning being received regarding a risk locally, for example air pollution, smoke plume, gas cloud etc.;
- A serious or emergency accident or incident requiring the emergency services at the school;
- A major fire in the vicinity of the school;
- The close proximity of a dangerous dog roaming loose;
- A swarm of bees or wasps;
- Dense fog where pollution could cause breathing difficulties;
- Wild animals on site e.g. foxes;
- Volcano ash cloud;
- A reported incident or civil disturbance in the local community with the potential to pose a risk to staff and pupils in the school;
- A visitor to the school site who becomes abusive, making threats with the potential to pose a risk to pupils, staff or parents;
- An intruder on the school site with the potential to pose a risk to staff and pupils; (please note this is extremely rare)

Alert signals

The school's 'safe and secure' school alert signals inside the building will be the use of the intercom and alarm feature on the school's telephone system to all classrooms and offices. Message reads: **the school is in safe and secure mode. Please stay in your classroom, close doors and windows behind you, lower blinds and wait for further instructions and information.**

For classes taking lessons or breaks outside, the continuous blowing of a whistle accompanied by a megaphone message will indicate that a 'safe and secure' school site is required without delay. This will be done by the school by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher or Admin Officers.

'Safe and secure' megaphone message: **the school is in safe and secure mode. Please return to your classroom, close doors and windows behind you, lower blinds and wait for further instructions and information.**

Signal for the all-clear: Email and text message from the school office followed by a verbal response from the designated persons: Headteacher; Deputy Headteacher; Admin Officer

Full 'safe and secure' school actions:

- Pupils remain in their classrooms, in book corners, away from doors and windows.
- Pupils outside return to classroom
- Pupils or staff in rooms that are not able to be secured such as hallways and toilets should move to rooms that can be secured (e.g. classrooms).
- Move everyone away from windows.
- Teachers should take a register of pupils in each classroom (take note of any missing or extra pupils in the room). Keep the list of names when allowed to leave the room.
- Office staff to go to Headteacher's office
- Kitchen staff to go to the round room / main suite of offices.
- If the 'safe and secure' school occurs at break or lunchtime, as long as safe to do so, breaktime/lunchtime will be suspended and teaching staff must return to their classroom to support their pupils.

Entrance points should be secured e.g. doors and windows:

- All site gates to be secured if they are not already.
- Main entrance doors are set to the 'locked' position
- All external doors/Internal doors are closed and locked.
- Fire doors are closed (but not locked).
- All windows closed and blinds lowered.

Communication:

- School telephones to be kept free to send messages.
- Private mobile phones to be switched on ready to receive or send text messages and instructions.
- Email via classroom laptops or computers.

Notes

- If someone is taken hostage then the school should seek to evacuate the rest of the site.
- All should move **to where? [Coopers]** for safety if possible.

Partial 'safe and secure' school

This may be as a result of a reported incident / civil disturbance in the local community with the potential to pose a risk to staff and pupils in the school. This would be where pupils needed to stay in their classroom and not wander around the school site. It may also be as a result of a major incident occurring in the school which it may not be appropriate for pupils to witness, for example a first aid emergency, or may be a warning received regarding the risk of air pollution, etc.

Immediate action:

- All outside activity to cease immediately, pupils and staff return to building.
- All staff and pupils remain in building and external doors and windows locked
- All external windows to be shut and blinds/curtains to be closed to restrict the view into school during 'safe and secure' school.

- Movement may be permitted within the school buildings dependent upon circumstances but this must be supervised by a member of staff
- All situations are different, once all staff and pupils are safely inside, senior staff will conduct an on-going and dynamic risk assessment based on the information available and advice given from the Emergency Services or other outside agencies. This can then be communicated to staff and pupils.
- Partial 'safe and secure' school is a precautionary measure but puts the school in a state of readiness (whilst retaining a degree of normality) should the situation escalate and need to revert to a full 'safe and secure' school.
- In the event of an air pollution issue, air vents can be closed (where possible) as an additional precaution. Emergency Services will advise as to the best course of action in respect of the prevailing threat.
- During the 'safe and secure' school, staff will keep agreed lines of communication open, via phones, mobiles and computer email, but will not make unnecessary calls to the School Office as this could delay more important communication.
- Actions to be taken where possible to ensure that the incident does not re-occur

Securing the school if the school has an intruder

We will carry out the following steps when the threat or intruder is already inside the school building:

- A designated member of staff should repeat the announcement "secure school with intruder".
- All pupils, staff and any visitors must be directed to the nearest secure room without delay.
- Outdoor lessons must not go back inside the building. Instead move them to their designated safe space (far corner of the field in the shrubs?).
- Lock all classroom doors.
- DO NOT lock exterior doors.
- Move everyone away from windows and doors. Make sure all pupils remain sitting on the floor.
- Turn off the lights.
- Teachers should take a register of pupils in each classroom (take note of any missing or extra pupils in the room). Keep the list of names when allowed to leave the room.
- DO NOT respond to anybody at the door until it has been announced by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher or their delegated representative that it is safe.
- Keep out of sight.
- Ensure pupils move quickly and quietly when or if they are moved out of the room.
- When there is no longer a threat or the intruder has left the building, the designated member of staff should announce "all clear".

Alternative 'safe and secure' school situations

'Safe and secure' school before school starts:

- Staff should direct pupils from the hallways into their classrooms.
- Staff should check the hallways and outside of the building.
- A text message should be sent to notify parents/carers of pupils of the potential danger.
- Teachers should register the names of pupils in their classrooms.
- After “all clear” has been announced, a full register should be taken again to get an accurate record of attendance.

‘Safe and secure’ school during before or after school activities:

- Activity leaders and third parties to be made aware of the arrangements within this policy
- Activity leaders should record the names of pupils present and keep all pupils with them.
- School staff should check the hallways and other rooms in the building
- After “all clear” has been announced, a full register should be taken again to get an accurate record of attendance.
- A text message should be sent to notify parents/carers of pupils of the potential danger.

Communication between parents and the school:

- The School’s ‘safe and secure’ school procedures will be published on the school website and routine practices communicated with parents by text, newsletter or via the school website with information regarding the effectiveness of the procedure.
- In the event of an actual full ‘safe and secure’ school or partial ‘safe and secure’ school, any incident or development will be communicated to parents as soon as is practicable; ‘Berewood Primary School is in a full/partial ‘safe and secure’ school situation. During this period the phones, office and entrances will be un-staffed, external doors locked. Please wait for further instructions and information.’
- Parents will be given enough information about what will happen/is happening or has happened so that they are reassured that the school understands their concern for their child’s welfare, and that it is doing everything possible to ensure their safety.
- Parents will be reassured that any measures needed to ensure the incident does not re-occur are put into place;
- Parents are asked not to contact the school during a ‘safe and secure’ school or immediately afterwards. Calling the school could put pupil’s safety at risk as lines of communication are needed for contacting emergency providers, the Academy Trust, outside agencies, parents or Local Authority.
- Parents are asked not come to the school. This could interfere with emergency provider’s access to the school and may even put themselves and others in danger;
- Parents need to wait for the school to contact them about what happens next and when it is safe for them to collect their children, and where this will be from (if this is deemed necessary).
- Parents will be informed when the ‘all clear’ has been given.

Emergency Services

- It is important to keep lines of communication open with outside agencies and the Emergency Services as they are best placed to offer advice as a situation unfolds.
- The school site may or may not be cordoned off by Emergency Services depending on the severity of the incident that has triggered the 'safe and secure' school;
- Emergency Services will support the decision of the Headteacher regarding the timing of communication to parents;
- In the event of a prolonged 'safe and secure' school or more severe scenario, the Local Authority has the capacity to provide humanitarian assistance by establishing a Reception Centre for friends and family outside of the cordoned area;
- It is of vital importance that the school's 'safe and secure' school procedures are familiar to all members of the school staff. To achieve this, a 'safe and secure' school drill should be undertaken at least once a year.
- A log of the drills should be kept and any identified issues recorded and resolved.
- Depending on their age pupils should also be aware of the plan. Regular practices similar to Fire Evacuation Practices will increase their familiarity.

Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed by staff and Governors, annually.