



Bell Avenue
Sutton
Macclesfield
SK11 0EE

5/3/24

Dear Families,

As you may be aware, we have recently had some new invacuation alarms fitted around the school, which the Aspire Educational Trust has funded. I just wanted to take this opportunity to explain their purpose and the procedures that may take place.

A lockdown or invacuation procedure would be used if the need ever arises when children are outside to get them inside for safety as soon as possible, or if the children are inside and need to remain in the classroom. It may be that a danger is spotted by staff on duty, or instructions are received from an outside emergency service. The Lockdown Procedure in school is supported by guidance issued on the government website.

An **invacuation** may be deemed the most appropriate course of action if an emergency situation occurs outside the school buildings or grounds and which renders an evacuation unsafe. Once the children are safely inside, school activities can continue as normal.

Invacuation may be appropriate in many circumstances. For example:

- If air pollutants are present due to a nearby fire or chemical release
- If a dangerous animal is in the playground
- If an aggrieved or intoxicated parent is trying to obtain access to pupils or staff

A **lockdown** may be deemed the most appropriate where an external or internal danger poses a significant threat to both staff and pupils. In the event of a lockdown, staff and pupils would be expected to stay in a designated safe area inside until advised otherwise by the emergency services.

The additional step of **lockdown** of the buildings/grounds aims to help prevent an intruder or violent individual from causing harm. All entrances to the school will be secured to make every effort to prevent an intruder from entering the premises.

A lockdown practice will be carried out with the children at least 3 times a year in the same way as we have fire evacuation practices. In these instances the alarm will go off and the external and internal doors will be locked. The children will be asked to remain quiet, in their classrooms, until the alarm stops.

The lockdown alarm and procedure will, of course, be explained to each year group in an age-appropriate, reassuring way. We will explain this to the children by saying that, like the fire alarm, which lets us know that in order to be safe we need to be outside, the lockdown alarm lets us know that in order to stay safe we need to be inside.

Like all schools, we hope that neither the fire, nor the lockdown alarms are ever needed but it is important that the children know what to do in an emergency.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Sarah Clough