



## **EXAMINATIONS LOCKDOWN POLICY**

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### **Key staff involved in the lockdown policy/procedure**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name(s)</b>
Head of centre	<b>Miss Justine Mason</b>
Exams officer	<b>Mrs Karen Pollard</b>
SLT member(s)	<b>Ms Emma Clapham</b>
Health & Safety	<b>Mr Lee Cochrane</b>

## Purpose of the policy

This policy details the measures taken at Hele's School in the event of a centre lockdown during the conducting of examinations.

A lockdown may be required in the following situations:

- 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
- any other external or internal incident which has the potential to pose a threat to the safety of exams staff and candidates

Hele's School has devised lockdown procedures after consulting GOV.UK's [Developing Dynamic Lockdown Procedures](#) guidance.

With regard to conducting examinations, the focus before, during and after an exam will be:

- the welfare and safety of exam 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
- training staff engaged/involved in the conducting of examinations
- STAY SAFE principles (Run, Hide, Tell)

If Hele's School goes into a lockdown Staff and Invigilators will be informed by the school bell and/or by radio. A code word (**CODE ONE**), will show up on all Staff PC's if logged in. For the radio they will say the code word (**CODE ONE**) over the air ways.

There will also be a specific sounding of the bell, which will identify it as a lockdown and not a fire alarm. It will be 15 continuous rings, short, sharp rings.

You are to make sure that you and the students are safe by barricading the room doors and windows with the table and chairs, move away from doors and windows and get low onto the floor and try to stay calm. You are to wait there and listen on the radio or mobile phone for any more instructions. Ensure all mobile phones are switched to silent.

No candidates in an exam should be handed back their mobile phone.

Follow Instructions from appendix A.

Once you hear or receive a text message with the word **ENDEX**, you know it is safe and the lockdown is over.

## **Roles and responsibilities**

### **Head of centre**

- To ensure that the dedicated lockdown alert 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 exams-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 exam room due it being locked down
- To ensure that all candidates and staff are aware of an exit point in case an intruder manages to gain access, or the room becomes unsafe
- To provide written lockdown procedures for exam room/invigilator use
- To inform the relevant Emergency Services immediately in the case of any potential threat to the safety of exams staff and candidates

### **Senior leadership team (SLT)**

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

### **Exams officer**

- To ensure invigilators are aware and have received training in the centre's lockdown procedure from the Health & Safety Officer
- Where safe/possible, to liaise with SLT/invigilators in all exam 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 exams officer during a lockdown to confirm the situation in a particular exam room

## **Lockdown procedure**

### **Before an examination**

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

- A member of SLT will be present around exam room areas
- Candidates will be instructed to enter the exam 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
- Where safe/possible, the SLT member will communicate (via mobile phone/walkie talkie) the situation to the exams officer (ensuring that all mobile phones/walkie talkies are on 'silent' mode)
- The exams officer will collate the information from all exam rooms and forward this to the head of centre immediately

Invigilators will

- shut 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

### **During an examination**

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

- Invigilators will:
  - tell candidates to stop writing immediately and turn their papers over.
  - 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 exam desk
  - where safe/possible, communicate (via mobile phone/walkie talkie) the situation to the exams officer (ensuring that all mobile phones/walkie talkies are on 'silent' mode).
  - shut 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

- (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, the exams officer will collate the information from all exam 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 exams officer (or invigilators in the absence of the exams officer) will initiate the emergency evacuation procedure
- The exams 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 exam/as candidates are leaving the exam room, the following procedure will be employed:

- Invigilators will:
  - stop dismissing candidates from the exam room
  - instruct candidates who have left the room to re-enter the exam room
  - instruct candidates to remain silent and hide under examination tables
  - where safe/possible, communicate (via mobile phone/walkie talkie) the situation to the exams officer (ensuring that all mobile phones/walkie talkies are on 'silent' mode).
  - lock all windows and close all curtains/blinds
  - switch off all lights
  - shut all doors and/or use tables, or any other furniture, to barricade the entrance to the exam 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, the exams officer will collate the information from all exam rooms and forward this to the head of centre immediately

### **Ending a lockdown**

- The lockdown will be ended by a message via radio or mobile phone with the word **ENDEX**
- the identification/authorisation of Emergency Service officers/SLT/head of centre entering each exam 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 exams officer/SLT
- Where applicable and if advised to do so by SLT/ 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 exam conditions and allow a settling down period
- recalculate the revised finish time(s) to allow for the full exam time
- tell the candidates to turn their papers over and re-start their exam
- 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 bodies and where relevant, any centre-wide lockdown recording form/log)

The exams officer will

- provide a report of the incident for awarding bodies (via the special consideration process or as advised by awarding bodies)
- safely/securely store all collected exam papers and materials pending awarding body advice/guidance

Where applicable/possible/available, SLT/exams officer will

- negotiate any alternative exam sittings with the awarding bodies
- offer, arrange and provide support services to staff and candidates

At the earliest opportunity, SLT/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

Hele's School Policy No:		Person Group Responsible:	<b>SLT/Exam Officer</b>
Review Period	Biannual	Last review Date:	January 2020
Related documentation			

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Stay Safe**

#### **Firearms and weapons attack.**

Stay safe principles (Run Hide Tell) give some simple actions to consider at an incident and the information that armed officers may need in the event of a firearms and weapons attack.

#### **Run.**

- Escape if you can.
- Consider the safe options.
- Is there a safe route? RUN if not HIDE.
- Can you get there without exposing yourself to greater danger?
- Insist others leave with you.
- Leave belongings behind.

#### **Hide**

- If you can't RUN, HIDE.
- Find cover from gunfire.
- If you can see the attacker, they might be able to see you.
- Cover from view does not mean you are safe, bullets go through glass, brick, wood and metal.
- Find cover from gunfire e.g. substantial brickwork / heavy reinforced walls.
- Be aware of your exits.
- Try not to get trapped.
- Be quiet, silence your phone.
- Lock / barricade yourself in.
- Move away from the door.

#### **Tell**

- Call 999 – what the police need to know?
- Location – Where are the suspects?
- Direction – Where did you last see the suspects?
- Descriptions – Describe the attacker, numbers, features, clothing and weapons.
- Further information – Casualties, type of injury, building information, entrances and exits.
- Stop other people entering the building if it is safe to do so.

#### **Armed Police Response.**

- Follow officer' instructions.
- Remain calm.
- Can you move to a safe area?
- Avoid sudden movements that may considered a threat.
- Keep your hands in view.

#### **Officers may**

- Point guns at you.
- Treat you firmly.
- Question you.
- Be unable to distinguish you from the attacker
- Officers will evacuate you when it is safe to do so.