



Dear Parents and Carers

20 June 2023

Re: Lockdown 8th June 2023

Now that we had time to evaluate our response to the situation that arose on 8th June, I thought some feedback might be helpful.

We did have intruders on the site. Due to GDPR regulations I cannot provide you with any details as to their ages, gender or whether they were ex-students or not. I can tell you that two of the people that came onto our site have been involved, in the past, in a number of physical assaults against different students that do currently attend our school, which have been serious enough to warrant police involvement.

As we were unsure as to whether any weapons were being carried by these individuals, and they were not responding to our instructions to allow us to escort them off the site, nor were they listening to the key workers that are involved with them who had attended our site to attempt to support their removal, when they began running towards our main buildings and our student body we made the decision to initiate a lockdown, as per government guidance, in order to keep our students safe.

The police were called but did not arrive before the situation had been resolved - the entire incident lasted for 45 minutes.

This lockdown policy has to be followed accurately until such time as we can ensure the situation is resolved and the students are definitely no longer in potential danger. I appreciate it may seem like an overreaction, but we are guided by the idea that were one of these individuals to be carrying a knife or other weapon and had targeted one of our students who had been assaulted previously, we could be facing a far more horrific situation than otherwise occurred.

Following this incident, we have identified key areas for improvement, the main one being strengthening security at the point where access was gained. This was done immediately by installing extra fencing at a significant height. We have also identified areas where blinds need to be replaced at windows and we have streamlined our procedures such as ensuring that the same message is given to students about going to their tutor room and that staff have been reminded to reassure students.

Things that worked well were that all students were quickly in a safe space and the procedures for locking down the buildings ran smoothly. I would like to thank you for your support and understanding - our key focus, always, is to keep the children and staff safe. This was our first experience of a 'live' lockdown; I hope it will be our last but we have certainly identified key areas to improve and have actioned these.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Lynda Bevan
Headteacher