



SERVICE - PRAYER - ACHIEVE - RESPECT

17th October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Enhancing safety in our school

At The Barlow RC High School, we take safeguarding and safety very seriously. It is important that we continue to review all our procedures, taking into account even those events that are very unlikely to occur. One of these procedures is referred to as 'Lock Down' and all schools are required to implement procedures for this. I am writing to inform you that we will be practicing this procedure this half term.

What is a lockdown and when would we carry it out?

A lockdown procedure is a standard health and safety procedure, similar to a fire drill. Our lockdown procedure would be used when there is a threat to the safety of pupils, staff and others in the school, and when it is safer for everyone to remain in school than evacuate. The aim is to keep people safe by confining them to a secure place of safety.

During a practice or a real lock down parents are requested to:

- not attempt to call or come to the school, as this may hinder the school's effort to contact and work with the emergency services
- should not discuss the event on social media, as this may spread false information and create panic
- The pupils will be instructed not to use mobile phones during a lockdown, so parents should not be alarmed if your child does not answer their phone

Prior to our drill, staff will take time to talk to pupils about lockdown procedures and explain why they are important. They will reassure pupils after the drill that they are safe, and will emphasise that practicing procedures like this will make sure the school remains a safe place to learn.

I must stress again this is simply a practice, so that in the unlikely event of such a situation, our pupils and staff are fully prepared.

If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Scott
Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

