

# Lockdown



Pride  
Passion  
Partnership  
Professionalism  
Positivity

Centre name	The Bridge Easton
Centre number	926/7008
Date policy first created	20.02.2025
Current policy approved by	Natalie Does
Current policy reviewed by	Hannah Middleditch
Date of review	1.12.2025
Date of next review	20.02.2026

### Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name
Head of Centre	Natalie Does
Senior Leader(s)	William Turnpenny, Claire Greengrass & Lucy Leaford
Exams Officer	Hannah Middleditch
Other staff (if applicable) N/A	

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that a lockdown during the conducting of examinations at The Bridge Easton School is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

In addition to this policy, centres are encouraged to provide a summary to all centre staff of the information relating to a lockdown during the examination period by completing and sharing the Department for Education's [Lockdown Template](#)

Staff engaged directly with the conducting of examinations (e.g. exams officer, exams officer assistant, invigilators, facilitators of access arrangements, etc.) should be instructed to refer to the full policy.

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## Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions should be noted:

### Lockdown

This is a protective measure implemented when there is a credible threat to the safety of candidates/students and staff. During a lockdown, individuals are instructed to remain inside the building and seek shelter in a secure location, away from the source of danger.

The purpose of a lockdown is to minimise exposure to potential harm and ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone on site until the threat has been resolved or emergency services arrive.

Lockdown procedures may be activated in situations including:

- The presence of an unauthorised or suspicious individual on the grounds or within the building
- A violent, aggressive, or abusive parent/carer causing disruption
- A specific threat made against the centre or its occupants

All staff must be familiar with the centre's lockdown protocol and ensure candidates/students are guided calmly and efficiently to designated safe areas.

Communication with emergency services and internal coordination will be managed by the head of centre or designated safeguarding lead.

### Invacuation

This is a safety measure used when there is a potential external threat in the surrounding area. While lockdowns are activated in response to immediate risks within or directly threatening the premises, invacuations are employed when it is safer for candidates/students, staff, and visitors to remain inside the building due to hazards outside.

Invacuation procedures are designed to ensure that all individuals are brought indoors promptly and remain inside until the external threat has passed or further guidance is provided by emergency services.

An invacuation may be applicable to exam candidates if they have left the exam room in the event of an emergency evacuation (for example, due to a fire alarm).

Examples of situations requiring invacuation include:

- The presence of loose or potentially dangerous animals on the grounds
- Environmental hazards such as gas leaks, smoke, or chemical pollution in the vicinity
- Nearby incidents (e.g. police activity or civil disturbance) that may pose a risk if individuals exit the building

Staff are expected to follow the invacuation protocol calmly and efficiently, ensuring that all candidates/students are accounted for and safely indoors. The head of centre or designated safeguarding lead will oversee communication and coordination during such events.

## Purpose of the policy

This policy details the measures taken at Fen Rivers in the event of a centre lockdown during the conducting of examinations.

Lockdown procedures have been determined by consulting ProtectUK, the Department for Education's guidance relating to School and college security and Martyn's Law.

Depending on the nature of the incident, a decision will be made to evacuate, invacuate (an inward evacuation) or use a protected space(s). However, this policy focuses specifically upon the actions, roles and responsibilities during an exams-related lockdown.

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## Compliance

To ensure that all staff at The Bridge Easton are meeting the requirements of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, the following procedures are in place:

### 1. Lockdown procedures

Where a lockdown is required, the following procedures will be employed at The Bridge Easton School:

#### Before an examination

As candidates are entering/waiting to enter the examination room, Invigilators will:

- Instruct candidates to enter the examination room immediately
- Instruct candidates to remain silent, hide under desks or sit against a wall/around a corner but not near the door and to ensure mobile phones are on silent and non-vibrate mode
- Lock all windows and close any/all curtains/blinds
- Switch off all lights
- Lock all doors and/or use tables, or any other furniture, to barricade the entrance to the 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
- Where safe/possible, not to leave the examination question papers unattended or out of sight

A senior leader/authorised person will be present around the examination room(s) area(s) and where safe/possible, communicate the situation to the Exams Office/Officer (via mobile phone/walkie talkie on silent and non-vibrate mode).

The Exams Office/Officer will collate the information from all examination 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.

Additional centre-specific procedures: Not applicable

#### During an examination

When candidates are in the examination room, Invigilators will:

- Tell candidates to stop writing immediately and close their answer booklets
- Collect the attendance register
- Make a note of the time when the examination was suspended
- Instruct candidates to remain silent, leave all examination materials on their desks and hide under desks
- 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 and non-vibrate mode)
- Lock all windows and close any/all curtains/blinds

- Switch off all lights
- Lock all doors and/or use tables, or any other furniture, to barricade the entrance to the 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, do not leave the examination question papers unattended or out of sight

Where safe/possible, the Exams Office/Officer will collate the information from all examination 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 instruction from the appropriate authority, the Exams Office/Officer and/or invigilators will initiate the emergency evacuation procedure.

Where safe/possible, the Exams Office/Officer will collect all examination question papers and materials for safe/secure storage following advice from the appropriate awarding body/bodies.

Additional centre-specific procedures: Not applicable

#### **After an examination**

As candidates are leaving the examination room, Invigilators will:

- Stop dismissing candidates from the examination room
- Instruct candidates who have left to re-enter the examination room
- Instruct candidates to remain silent and hide under desks/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 and non-vibrate mode)
- Lock all windows and close any/all curtains/blinds
- Switch off all lights
- Lock all doors and/or use tables, or any other furniture, to barricade the entrance to the 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, do not leave the examination question papers unattended or out of sight

Where safe/possible, the Exams Officer will collate the information from all examination 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.

Additional centre-specific procedures: Not applicable

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## Ending a lockdown

The lockdown will be ended by the identification/authorisation of emergency service officer/Senior Leader/Head of Centre entering the examination 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 Office/Officer/Senior Leader.

Where applicable and if advised to do so by a Senior Leader/Head of Centre, if there is sufficient time (and following JCQ regulations), candidates may be allowed to restart their examination.

Invigilators will:

- Ask candidates to return to their desks, remind them they are under formal examination conditions and allow a settling down period
- Allow candidates the full working time remaining for their examination
- Recalculate the revised finish time(s)
- Tell the candidates to open their answer booklets and re-start their examination
- 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 body/bodies)

The Exams Office/Officer will:

- Safely/securely store all collected exam papers and materials pending awarding body advice/guidance and where this may be applicable
- Ensure appropriate follow-up is undertaken after the incident, reporting the incident to the awarding body and the actions taken, where this may be applicable
- Where this may be applicable, ensure a full report of the incident is produced and retained on file if required by an awarding body
- Where this may be applicable, ensure an online application for special consideration is submitted to the relevant awarding body where candidates have been disadvantaged
- At the earliest immediate opportunity, the Head of Centre will ensure that any breach of question paper security or malpractice is reported to the awarding body

Where applicable/possible/available, the Senior Leader/Exams Office/Officer will:

- Discuss any alternative examination sittings with the awarding body/bodies
- Offer, arrange and provide support services to staff and candidates

At the earliest opportunity, the Senior Leader/Head of Centre will prepare communication to parents/carers advising them of events, including relevant actions and outcomes.

Where possible, exam staff and candidates will be invited to attend an assembly led 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/BOOP and information uploaded to the centre website.

Additional centre-specific procedures: Not applicable

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## 2. Roles and responsibilities

### The role of the Head of Centre

- Ensure staff are aware of how a lockdown will be communicated over the walkie talkies
- Arrange appropriate training for all exams staff in lockdown procedures
- Ensure candidates are aware of the procedures relating to a lockdown, particularly those arriving late for an examination who cannot access the examination room due to it being locked down
- Ensure all candidates and staff are aware of a possible exit point in case an intruder manages to gain access, or the room becomes unsafe
- Provide written lockdown procedures for examination room/invigilator use
- Inform the relevant emergency service(s) immediately in the case of any potential threat to the safety of exams staff and candidates

Additional responsibilities: Not applicable

### The role of the Senior Leader

- Assume responsibility for exam staff and candidates taking examinations during a lockdown
- Arrange training/drills for examination candidates on lockdown procedures
- Inform parents/carers about the centre's Lockdown Policy in relation to the conducting of examinations
- Have a presence around examination room areas prior to the start of each examination session
- Liaise with the appropriate authorities and awarding bodies regarding candidates taking examinations during a lockdown
- Use the examination room attendance register(s) to compile a list of any candidates not accounted for

Additional responsibilities: The Lockdown Policy is known to staff and students, signalled via code purple on the radios.

### The role of the Exams Office/Officer

- Train invigilators in the centre's lockdown procedures - this should also include identifying all access points within exam rooms, an awareness of the design of the locking device within each room and if there is more than one invigilator, whose role it would be to secure the exam room
- Where safe/possible, liaise with senior leaders/invigilators in all examination rooms during a lockdown
- Assist with lockdown training for staff and candidates where applicable to the conducting of examinations

Additional responsibilities: Not applicable.

### The role of the invigilator

- Be aware of the centre's lockdown procedure

- 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 Office/Officer during a lockdown to confirm the situation in a particular examination room
- Where safe/possible, not leave the examination question papers and candidates' scripts unattended/out of sight

Additional responsibilities: Not applicable.

## Changes 2025/2026

(Replaced/Added) **Introduction** replaced with **Definitions** and reference to invacuation added throughout.

(Added/Removed) Reference to legislation - **Martyn's Law** and the **Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025** - added and reference to RUN HIDE TELL removed.

(Added) **Compliance** section added.

(Added) New bullet points/optional insert fields added in various places for accepting/declining.

(Updated) Various insert prompts updated with additional information.

## Centre-specific changes

As above.