

# St. John's C.E. Primary School

Poplar Street Heaton Mersey Stockport SK4 3DG

www.st-johns.stockport.sch.uk

# **Policy for: Critical Incidents**

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|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
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| Is this a Statutory Document? | Yes                                |



# Critical Incidents Guidelines for Schools

#### **VERSION 6**

### IF YOU ARE DEALING WITH AN EMERGENCY RIGHT NOW – GO STRAIGHT TO THE <u>SCHOOL EMERGENCY PLAN</u>

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## Services to People Directorate

| PLAN OWNER:          | Pat Morgan – Senior Adviser School Support                                      |
|----------------------|---|
| APPROVED BY:         | Stephen Nayakatawa  |
| DATE APPROVED:       | January 2020  |
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| DATE TO BE REVIEWED: | January 2022  |

| THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PLAN AT THE SCHOOL IS |                       |  |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| Name: Patrick Rayner                                  | Position: Headteacher |  |

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| Document Name                      | Critical Incident Guidelines for Schools   |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Purpose                            | To provide a structured framework which allows schools to prepare<br>for a range of incidents; occurring at school or off-site in accordance<br>with educational activities, involving pupils, staff and others or<br>impacting upon the school community.<br>This guidance relates to both emergency response and business<br>continuity aspects, outlining the actions, roles and responsibilities in<br>responding to critical incidents. |
| Contact for Further<br>Information | Pat Morgan: Senior Adviser School Support Service  |
| Location of Document               | School Support Services  |

The plan has been reviewed in accordance with the Council's Equality Impact Assessment model.

Applications for discussion under the Freedom of Information Act should be sent to the Local Authority Freedom of Information Officer.

# FOREWORD Director of Children's Services

A wide range of incidents have the capability to become a critical incident and although infrequently, a serious crisis may affect your school. A critical incident may be defined as an incident or situation involving trauma, fatality or serious injury to an individual or serious damage to property. By its very nature such an incident is sudden, unpredictable and outside the range of normal human experience and such events can be very distressing to pupils and staff. It can happen on the premises or may involve pupils and or staff when they are away. Sometimes, a disaster affecting the wider community may have a significant effect on your school.

Critical incident management (CIM) is intended to provide a response which provides an effective and proportionate outcome to an incident. This guide has been prepared to assist Headteachers and school staff deal effectively with critical incidents and is intended to assist you in planning to ensure that systems are in place to help the school community manage such circumstances and provide support from the Local Authority and other organisations.

The Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999 require that procedures for serious and imminent danger be established and that Risk Assessments should be used in order to ascertain 'what could go wrong' and how to react. Feedback from those who have been faced with different situations has highlighted how much better the response was where the incident had been 'rehearsed' previously and a procedure was in place, which was clearly understood by everyone, and was well documented.

Our schools are well versed in dealing with day to day incidents and manage these very effectively throughout the year. There are some incidents that thankfully happen rarely, which are of a serious or critical nature and that can have a dramatic effect on the school and all those involved. I know that there is a long history of effective risk assessment in Stockport following the previous guidance and many of you have your systems in place, and indeed have rehearsed various scenarios with your incident management teams. This has contributed greatly to the low ratio of 'incidents' across the Borough over a number of years.

I expect that this document will be used in a variety of ways across the Borough and in conjunction with your Business Continuity Plans. Some schools will have policies in place already, but I strongly urge you to follow this guidance in preparing your own plans and procedures to ensure a consistent approach across the whole of Stockport. I commend these guidelines to you and assure you that the Officers of Services to People (StP) in Stockport will offer you their full support in your endeavours to implement them in your own school.

I would also extend thanks to all who contributed to this document.

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Chris McLoughlin Director of Children's Services

## **SCHOOL DETAILS**

Head Teacher: Patrick Rayner

Deputy: Andrew Clerc

Chair of Governors: Andrew Moore

Telephone Number: 0161 442 7424

Name of School:

St John's C.E. Primary School

Full Address of School:

Poplar Street Heaton Mersey Stockport SK4 3DG

Date Policy Approved by the Governing Body: Summer Term 2021

## **INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL INCIDENTS GUIDELINES**

Handling crisis is a normal part of school life. Some incidents, however, are of a more critical and overwhelming character in which staff, pupils and parents/carers may experience acute, even prolonged, distress. Schools in Stockport have, for instance previously faced:

- the serious injury or fatality within the school;
- incidents charged with profound emotion;
- the aftermath of any terrorist activity;
- > incidents attracting unusual and a high level of attention from the news media;
- major arson attacks;
- incidents involving serious threat;
- serious health related scenarios;
- any of the above and/or other incidents with extremely unusual circumstances which produce a high level of immediate or delayed emotional reaction, surpassing the individual's normal coping mechanisms.

The following guidance draws on the experience in Stockport and elsewhere over recent years. It uses the experience of schools that have been through a critical incident. It is not intended to be prescriptive or to attempt to cover all possible events. A major fire outside school hours or a serious accident on a school trip or major community incident will require different types and scales of response, and will involve different agencies.

These guidelines are designed:

- to help schools develop plans to respond to a critical incident;
- to provide practical guidance and reference during such an event;
- > to train and exercise key staff in preparation for such an event.

The nature and timing of a particular incident will impact on the response. This information relates to <u>all eventualities</u> from events affecting the school to a wider community disaster.

The information contained in this guidance is intended to enable schools to manage their own difficulties, drawing on their own resources and access additional support, advice or information from the School Support Service and other agencies where appropriate.

Feedback from those who have been faced with difficult situations clearly highlights having 'rehearsed' for an incident would have enhanced their confidence in coping with the reality.

The Local Authority Officers will continue to support schools in any significant incident. Schools are not expected to cope alone with incidents involving for example, loss of life or anything that attracts intensive media interest. If in doubt, please use the contacts listed in this document.

In this respect the work of the StP Psychology Service could be of major benefit, particularly in relation to bereavement and crisis in schools. This team have undertaken research on behalf of Stockport and built up a range of tailor made support to schools, including individual and group support to schools, information packs, standardised letters etc.

Response to these ranges of incidents can be very demanding on staff and pupils and it should be recognised that some staff will not be able to engage in this work at certain times. Support to all staff at such times is critical.

# MANAGING THE RESPONSE TO CRITICAL INCIDENTS IN SCHOOLS

#### **Thinking Ahead - Being Prepared**

It is self-evident that a school which has anticipated a critical incident, and laid plans for managing a response, is likely to handle the actual event more effectively and confidently. If we know who will assume key roles, have checklists and procedures in place, up to date contact lists, a tested framework for communications and some practised skills to draw on, then our response to a crisis will be more assured than even the most intelligent improvisation. This booklet is designed to encourage and support pre-planning. Each critical incident is unique; the range and complexity of issues in Stockport and elsewhere are enormous. We cannot plan for every eventuality and we would be mistaken if we planned on the basis of the most recent or most publicised experiences. By their very nature and definition, critical incidents tend to disorientate and overwhelm those involved. Although the journey through this sort of crisis is always going to be difficult, planning ahead is a necessary precaution and can be crucial.

#### What must schools do to prepare?

Every school must put in place documented procedures and ensure that staff and governors are familiar with them. This document is designed to allow schools to apply control methods that work best for their individual environment.

Key elements include:

- Identify a plan owner with responsibility for reviewing the document and associated training and exercising. It would be useful if this person was also responsible for the schools Business Continuity Plan as they inter-relate.
- Establish a group of staff to study this booklet (and other literature and experience) and formulate an action plan to follow it through.
- Identify a School Incident Management Team (SIMT) who, collectively or individually, could take a lead in an emergency. Commission key roles; include Governors, administration and site staff.
- Ensure basic information, contact lists, emergency evacuation procedures and accommodation, communication and procedures etc. are in place, known to all staff and kept up to date (including reference to changes in legislation, StP guidelines etc.).
- Carry out a simulation exercise to explore how a critical incident might unravel. Identify and pursue, as part of the School Development and Business Continuity Plan, additional needs for planning, training, skills development and raising awareness.
- Ensure that governors and all members of the school community, including parents/carers and pupils, are aware of the existence of a planned response including notification for any proposed rehearsals or enactments. Colleagues should be aware that a Governors Training Package has been put together. Details are included in the School Governor Development training programme.

> Ensure timescales for review, updating and monitoring are securely in place.

The School Support Services Team is available to advise schools/governing bodies where required and the Local Authority has formed its own Incident Management Team (see <u>Appendix 18: page 74)</u>. The Health, Safety & Wellbeing Team are also available for advice and guidance.

## **CRITICAL INCIDENTS; LEVELS, EXAMPLES AND FLOW CHARTS**

#### What is a Critical Incident?

A Critical Incident is not necessarily an event that attracts large media attention or results in a fatality, although clearly in defining 'critical', such events are the usual ones that spring to mind. Definitions of 'critical' vary from individual to individual.

In short a critical incident may involve the following:

- serious injury or fatality within the school;
- > any incident charged with profound emotion;
- any incident involving serious threat;
- any incident with extremely unusual circumstances which produces a high level of immediate or delayed emotional reaction, surpassing the individual's normal coping mechanisms.

The majority of 'critical' incidents can be categorised into broadly three levels, each requiring a different input from both the school and others e.g. emergency services, Local Authority, multi-agency involvement through Safeguarding Serious Case Reviews etc.

The following table gives examples of the Levels of critical incident, the recommended initial response, and action typically required for each level.

Please see overleaf for the personnel involved in colour-coded responses.

|  | Level 1 (Red)                   | Level 2 (Amber)                 | Level 3 (Green)  |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Response                                   | Immediate                       | Immediate                       | May be able to wait<br>until working hours                     |
| Setup SIMT                                 | Yes                             | Yes                             | Occasionally   |
| Contact LA                                 | Yes (Red Contact)               | Yes (Red/Amber<br>Contact)      | Yes (Green Contact)  |
| Emergency Services                         | School will contact             | School will contact             | School will contact  |
| SMBC Health, Safety<br>& Wellbeing Service | Local Authority<br>will contact | Local Authority will contact    | School to contact  |
| SMBC<br>Communication &<br>Marketing Team  | Local Authority<br>will contact | Local Authority will<br>contact | School to contact<br>SMBC<br>Communication &<br>Marketing Team |
| Diocesan Contact                           | Local Authority<br>will contact | Local Authority will contact    | School to contact  |

#### Note 1: See Flow charts on pages 16 – 18. Note 2: Contact numbers Appendices 17, 18, 19 and 20

#### Level 1 Examples

- Tragedies involving pupils from many schools e.g. Soham murders (2002), Buncefield fire (2005), Cumbria shootings (2010), Leeds staff murder (2014), Edinburgh pupil death in school (2014).
- > Deaths or injuries on school journeys.
- > Death of a pupil or member of staff as a result of an accident at school.
- Unlawful killing or serious act of violence of a parent/carer, pupil or members of staff on school premises.
- Suicide of a pupil, parent/carer or member of staff.
- A deliberate act of violence on school premises, such as a knifing, the use of a firearm etc.
- A major school fire or explosion causing extensive damage.
- Bomb or Terrorist threat.
- > Exposure to contaminated materials/airflow.

#### **Level 2 Examples**

- Unexpected death of a pupil or member of staff through natural causes e.g. meningitis. (Including the prompting of whole school vaccination).
- > Extensive vandalism to school building necessitating temporary closure.
- > Temporary closure as a result of adverse weather conditions.
- Accidental deaths of pupils or colleagues out of school hours not on a residential trip and unconnected with a school event.
- Serious damage to school premises.
- Physical/sexual abuse of a pupil during term time (on or off site).

#### **Level 3 Examples**

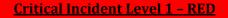
- > Physical abuse of staff by a pupil/parent/carer/intruder/staff.
- > Death of member of staff or pupil through illness e.g. cancer.
- A non-fatal traffic incident involving a pupil/member of staff.
- Other building related issues leading to temporary closure e.g. lack of heating, electricity, water etc.

Head Teachers who have experienced such events comment upon a number of important factors. These include:

- the suddenness of the occurrence;
- the shock effect;
- the apparent uniqueness of the occurrence;
- the publicity and media attention which can sometimes follow;
- the need to communicate with a number of people quickly;
- the need for support to be available very rapidly for those directly affected, and for the larger number who might be indirectly affected;
- the need that they and senior members of staff have for support.

In serious incidents (Levels 1, 2 or 3), schools and the Local Authority need to act in partnership.

It is important to draw a distinction between Level 1 incidents i.e. major incidents which require a multi-agency response, and Level 2/3 incidents. The Association of Greater Manchester Authorities Civil Contingencies & Resilience Unit has prepared plans for civil emergencies which often involve the use of school premises. Stockport Council's 'Emergency Response & Recovery Plan' contains information and plans for the management of various aspects of a major civil incident. These plans and procedures would automatically fall into place in the event of a major incident. In such a major emergency, separate arrangements are made by the Council.



Examples: Death or multiple injuries on school trip

Unlawful killing or serious act of violence

Pupil or Teacher being taken hostage

Major Fire or Explosion causing extensive damage

Response: Immediate Action

Set up School Incident Management Team

School to inform Local Authority (For details see Contacts for Incident Management Team)

> (if out of hours) Control Room Council 24 hour contacts Control Room holds the Council's 24 hour Emergency Contacts List

Tim Bowman Director Education Services

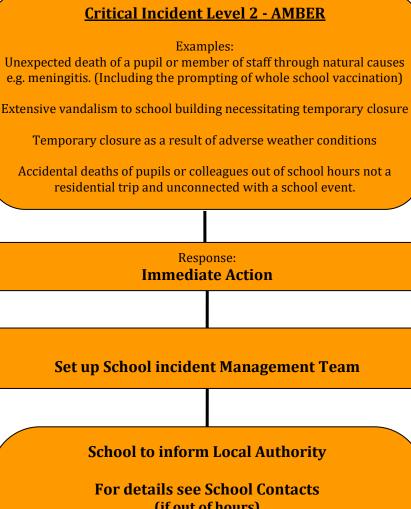
**Chris McLoughlin** 

Director of Children's Services Safeguarding/Prevention

School to inform Emergency Services 999

Local authority to contact

SMBC Health, Safety & Wellbeing Service, Civil Resilience and Communications & Marketing Team



(if out of hours) Control Room Council 24 hour contacts Control Room holds the Council's 24 hour Emergency Contacts List

| Devon Sherwood | Headteacher Support Manager |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
|----------------|-----------------------------|

Julia Storey Sen

Senior Adviser Safeguarding

Lynn Perry Head of School Effectiveness

School to inform Emergency Services 999

Local authority to contact SMBC Health, Safety & Wellbeing Service, Civil Resilience and Communications & Marketing Team

#### **Critical Incident Level 3 – GREEN**

Examples: Physical Abuse of staff by any pupil/carer/intruder/staff Expected death of a member of staff or pupil through illness A non-fatal traffic accident involving a pupil/member of staff Other building related issues leading to a temporary closure

> **Response:** May be able to wait until working hours

Occasionally there may be a need to set up the **School Incident Management Team** 

**School to inform Local Authority** For details see School Contacts **Control Room Council 24 hour contacts Control Room holds the Council's 24 hour Emergency Contacts list Devon Sherwood Headteacher Support Manager** 

**Julia Storey** 

**Senior Adviser Safeguarding** 

**School to inform Emergency Services** 999



SMBC Health, Safety & Wellbeing Service, Civil Resilience and Communications & Marketing Team

## **INITIAL ACTION**

Initiating immediate action requires a School Incident Management Team (SIMT) based on the senior management team of the school and Chair of Governors or equivalent. Depending on the type of incident the SIMT may wish to seek advice and guidance from the Corporate Health, Safety and Wellbeing Service who can offer direct support on a range of health & safety issues, accident investigation, liaison with enforcement officers and risk assessments.

#### 1: Gather Information

This section uses a serious incident off school premises as an example of the actions required. The Incident Information Sheet can be found under **Appendix 10**.

Information required

- What has happened?
- ➢ Where and when?
- Name and contact number of an adult at the incident site.
- > Extent of injured, name and contact number of adult present.
- ➢ Is help required from the school?

#### SIMT also needs to know

- ➤ Who has been informed?
- ➢ What has been said?

NB. If an incident involves the Police, they will take control of certain management issues.

#### 2: Brief School Incident Management Team (SIMT) See Roles and Responsibilities Chart under Appendix 11

- Whilst it might seem dramatic to have a school incident management team (SIMT) prepared, it does ensure that action is effective and efficient. Key people then know what to do and check the necessary steps are taken. A major incident can be shocking and disorientating so prepared procedures are essential.
- There needs to be a strategy meeting at the earliest opportunity where people can be gathered to plan and co-ordinate the school response.
- A SIMT may include the leadership team, administration and site staff, along with appropriate adults not necessarily from the school community.

- Competence, reliability and availability should determine membership of the SIMT rather more than school structure or status.
- Where there is a need for continued supervision of children and young people, adults other than staff (e.g. governors, parents/carers or minister) are invaluable. Please note the necessity for Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) checking of individuals asked to supervise children/young people.
- It is suggested that the SIMT meets at least annually to update names, contact numbers checklist and procedures.

#### 3: Contact the Local Authority through designated contacts (See Appendix 18)

- The Schools Support Service and Health, Safety & Wellbeing Team provide support to schools.
- They will also alert Corporate and Service Directors, Communications & Marketing Team (for media), Corporate Health, Safety & Wellbeing Service, Civil Resilience, Carillion Asset Management Business Services (AMBS), Human Resources, Psychology Service and Solutions SK: 24 hour control room and security service.
- They will inform the StP Incident Management Team who can offer support immediately and later.
- For Level 1 Red incidents schools should immediately contact the Corporate Director or a Service Director, or in their absence one of the other senior nominated staff e.g. Senior Adviser – School Support.
- > Establish clearly who is being contacted and by whom.

# 4: Designated place for an incident management room and a dedicated telephone line

- There is the possibility of the school line being inundated with incoming calls from anxious parent/carers. This can be completed through some dedicated line by updates on the schools website/parental text line being both informative yet sensitive in the messages given. The person or team dealing with incoming calls should provide an agreed factual statement, having sought appropriate guidance from LA contacts, along with reassurance of action being taken at the incident site. It is important to avoid speculation and not to make statements about further information or developments unless confident that it will be achieved. A list of predetermined, dedicated outgoing lines is required. Efforts should be made to restrict the use of personal mobiles uncontrolled use of mobile phones, even if well intentioned can cause major problems duplication, misinformation or confusion. On trips this will also help to preserve battery life; providing greater resilience through continuity of communications. Schools may wish to also consider using local radio and their own school web-sites to disseminate information.
- Governors can be kept informed through a previously agreed cascade initiated by the SIMT member.

#### 5: Contact families/carers whose children are directly involved

- Regularly review and update contact lists.
- This has to be done quickly and with sensitivity. It points to the need for the names and contacts of any excursion party or individual involved to be centrally available. Consistency of information is vital so it is best to avoid using a chain of communication. If a parent/carer cannot be contacted by telephone/parent text it may be necessary to use either a reliable neighbour (or another parent/carer) or a note through the door asking them to telephone a given number. Any message should relay known information and assurances of appropriate action being taken and should indicate if further information will be made available.
- It may be appropriate for parents/carers to come into school to be ready for further information. Some people are likely to need immediate emotional support. The School's Incident Management Team in conjunction with the Local Authority will provide this immediate support.

#### 6: Make arrangements for informing other parents/carers

- If there is any possibility of legal liability, Police action, or a health and safety issue, the Local Authority Incident Management Team should be contacted before the school issues information to parents/carers.
- It may be sufficient to inform parents/carers by sending a letter with children/young people. In some cases it will be appropriate to call a meeting at school, especially if the incident is one which will generate concern about some aspect of the school's organisation (e.g. injury following violence at school). The School's Incident Management Team should provide a letter to home as soon as possible.
- A prepared statement should give necessary facts, expression of sympathy/concern and possibly a message for the community. It is important to remember that a prepared statement is likely to be accessible to the media and to seek guidance from the School Support Service/Council Communications & Marketing Team where necessary.
- Heads may wish to contact the Local Authority Incident Management Team to check the content of any such letters or statements.

#### 7: Inform teaching and support staff

It is vital that all adults in contact with pupils are kept well informed and feel secure in handling questions and comments. A schedule for updating needs to be arranged e.g. during breaks, at the end of the day or first thing the next morning. Such meetings ensure that knowledge is common and questions are answered. Staff and Governors should be instructed not to talk to the media or respond to questions from reporters or place any information on social network sites.

#### 8: Inform pupils

This is best done in classes or small groups with particular care being taken to protect and support both children close to someone involved with the incident and staff who are unable to handle the emotions or distress confidently. Children should receive a consistent and open account of the incident as possible/deemed appropriate.

#### 9: Facilitating the media - initially and in the longer term

- Schools are urged to seek advice from the Local Authority Incident Management Team on responding to enquiries about the incident and particularly before agreeing to be interviewed or releasing names of children, young people and staff.
- School communities will still need to deal with the attentions of the media and should consider a prepared statement and the most appropriate person to respond. Pupils, parents/carers, governors, teaching and other staff may be approached directly by press, radio or TV reporters in the earliest stages of an incident. In an incident the media might learn of it before the school via mobiles and social media and may have information at odds with that of the school. In the most difficult circumstances the Police will usually assist with media matters.
- In some instances media interest might persist over a period of days and possibly be re-triggered by a funeral, court action or anniversary.

#### **Guidance Points**

- Seek the assistance and advice from the Council's Communications & Marketing Team.
- Prepare an agreed text for release to the media and/or a script from which anyone confronted by the media can speak. If possible ensure that a designated spokesperson, briefed and prepared, makes the direct response for the school.

#### **FURTHER ACTIONS**

#### 1: Develop a plan for handling the feelings and reactions of people

#### > Refer to <u>Appendix 5</u> and <u>Appendix 8</u> of the Plan.

#### 2: Encourage people involved to talk about the incident

In some instances people involved (children, young people and staff) should be able to talk about the incident before going home and venues/support should be made available. Advice and support should be sought from the Psychology Service.

#### 3: Possible further information to parents/carers not directly involved

- > Prepare general information releases via school and SMBC websites etc.
- Ensure parents/carers of children connected with the school e.g. children in other classes, relatives at the school, but not directly affected are informed of the incident and other relevant details.
- > Inform the wider school and local community.
- > Inform school partners e.g. 'feeder' schools/nurseries, service providers.

# 4: Maintain contact with emergency services, professional agencies and other groups involved

- The response needs to be appropriate to the severity of the incident. However the severity of the incident could be perceived very differently at different times depending on recent events at the school. For example, a death of a pupil through suicide may be dealt with as a Level 3 incident by one school but seen as a Level 2 by a school which is just recovering from a major fire. Schools will need different levels of support at different times.
- A school's contingency plan will need to be flexible, particularly to address the possibility of the incident occurring during a holiday. A school party will have home contact numbers and if an incident involves children not on a school activity e.g. the abduction of a child, information might come first from the media. The Headteacher, staff and governors need to be cautious in responding to 'on the record' questions. It is essential both to avoid and discourage speculation.

### **INTERACTING WITH THE MEDIA**

#### "Do's" in facing the news media:

- $\checkmark$  Do respond to what and when questions.
- ✓ Do tell your story quickly, accurately and get your key message(s) across.
- ✓ Do consider, where possible, the needs of your audience.
- ✓ Do choose your own time when to report to the media.
- ✓ Do prepare and rehearse so that everybody is given the same story.
- ✓ Do recognise that the media may ask specific questions to trigger an emotional response.
- $\checkmark\,$  Do get YOUR message across use the media as a means of sharing accurate information.

#### "Don'ts" in facing the news media:

- **x** Don't reply to why and how questions.
- **x** Don't speculate.
- **x** Don't bluff or lie.
- **x** Don't make 'off the record' comments.
- **x** Don't make promises you cannot keep.
- **x** Don't make excuses or blame others.
- × Don't respond to 'blind quotes' (e.g. "one of your staff tells me that... do you agree?").
- × Don't say "no comment" explain why you cannot comment.
- × Don't allow words to be put into your mouth e.g. "would you agree that...?"

#### How you present and respond is as crucial as what you say.

- Effective, direct communication within the school community can limit the impact of sensational media coverage.
- Pupils, all staff, governors, parents/carers need appropriate, accurate, up to date release of information and encouragement not to speculate or to give currency to rumour.

# **STAND-DOWN AND RECOVERY**

When the emergency services have left the school, or in the case of an incident on a school trip, when pupils and staff have returned home and media interest has subsided, the school can begin the recovery process. Head teachers should work with their Governing Body and School Support Services to develop a recovery plan for the school.

A range of support to aid recovery will be available from across the Local Authority. There may be enforcing officers, some formal inquiries and/or Police investigations into the incident, which may continue for some time and require the cooperation and support of school staff, pupils, parents/carers and third parties.

#### **Recovery plan checklist**

| As soon as possible after the emergency:   |  |
|--|--|
| Arrange individual/group emotional support using psychological first aid framework for staff and pupils.   |  |
| Arrange individual/group emotional support using psychological first aid framework for the headteacher and SIMT.   |  |
| Identify and support high-risk pupils and staff.   |  |
| Promote discussion of the incident in class.   |  |
| Consider the need for individual or group support.   |  |
| Help affected pupils and staff to come back into school.   |  |
| Arrange welfare visits to home addresses/hospitals.  |  |
| Liaise with parents/carers regarding plans for attendance at funerals.   |  |
| Liaise with parents/carers regarding plans for attendance/representation at memorial services.   |  |
| Seek advice from the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Service regarding any on-going safety issues, accident investigations, risk assessment, liaison with enforcement officers & RIDDOR reporting requirements. |  |
| Seek advice on legal issues from the Council's legal services.   |  |
| Initiate a review of the school emergency plan, evaluating the school's response and feeding in any lessons learnt.  |  |
| In the longer term:  |  |
| Consult and decide on whether and how to mark anniversaries.   |  |
| The impact of some incidents can continue for years, so thought may need to be given to ongoing identification and support measures for both pupils and staff who are affected.                              |  |
| Remember that legal processes, enquiries and news stories may bring back distressing memories and cause upset within the school.   |  |
| Remember to make any new staff aware of which pupils were involved and how they were affected.   |  |

# **Appendix 1: Specific Incidents Focussed on People**

#### Physical Assaults on a Student or Member of Staff

When a member of staff or student has been physically assaulted, the matter should be reported to the Headteacher immediately, who should ensure that the following action is taken:

- If the victim(s) requires medical attention, request a first-aid trained member of staff to see to the injury and call 999 if needed.
- Request students not involved in the incident to move away from the area and return to classrooms, if appropriate.
- Where the incident involves a fight or assault between students identify all those involved and request a member of staff to take them to a separate room away from other students.
- If appropriate to the nature of the incident, written statements, which should be purely factual, should be secured as soon as possible from any witnesses, and the names of witnesses should also be obtained.
- If the assault is on a member of staff, they should also prepare a statement as soon as possible.
- The incident should be reported as described in the Policy on Assaults against Staff in Schools and Other Educational Establishments.
- Ideally all statements should be prepared on the day of the incident, but the member of staff should be advised to contact his/her professional association before making the statement if they wish.
- Staff are requested to record as much information as is practicable about the incident and the background to it. The head teacher should hold all statements for reference in any future enquiry.
- If the assailant is an unknown intruder and/or has a weapon of any sort, attempt to move all students and staff to a safe location or room away from the threat and call 999.
- Try to remain calm and reassure the children to prevent panic.
- Do not attempt to restrain any individual that is leaving the school premises, unless it is a pupil and you fear for their safety, and contact the school headteacher or other senior member of staff as soon as possible to make them aware of the situation.
- Assault on its own does not necessarily involve physical injury or contact: the apprehension or fear and expectation of such violence is sufficient to cause trauma.

- There is no power of arrest for common assault. This does not mean that reasonable force cannot be used to restrain an assailant in the prevention of assault or further assault. However, a Police officer has a common-law power to take whatever action is necessary to prevent a breach of the peace.
- Depending on the circumstances of the case, the Police may: Decide not to take action. Caution a person who admits the offence. Press charges.
- If the Police decide to take no action, it is also open to any other person, including the victim, the headteacher, local authority, governing body or teacher unions and organisations to start a private prosecution.
- An assault causing actual bodily harm is a more serious offence. The essential additional element, when compared with common assault, is the infliction of significant, but not necessarily permanent or disabling, injury. This could include significant bruising, cuts, or other injury requiring medical treatment. It also includes psychiatric harm over and above minor emotional upsets.
- Schools should ensure that adequate procedures are in place to record all incidents of physical or verbal abuse (e.g. harassment, or threatening or abusive behaviour). Whilst these may not necessarily require an emergency response, the recording of such events can be used to note the frequency of such disturbances and possibly indicate wider trends.

#### **Care and Control**

All schools should have a care and control procedure, which outlines when physical restraint may be justified, possibly as part of the school's behaviour management policy. The policy should make it clear to staff, parents and pupils what is acceptable and what is not. Guidance can be found in the Services to People Directorate Care and Control guidance document for schools (2014).

All Stockport schools have access to Team Teach training delivered within the LA and which provides schools with a holistic approach towards managing challenging behaviour including appropriate restraints. In order to access this training schools should contact Education Access on 0161 474 3971.

There is a wide variety of situations in which reasonable physical intervention might be appropriate, or necessary, to control or restrain a pupil.

- Where action is necessary in self-defence or because there is an imminent risk of injury.
- Where there is a developing risk of injury or significant damage to property.
- Where a pupil is behaving in a way that is compromising good order and discipline.
- Where there is risk of a criminal offence being committed.

Examples include:

- A pupil attacks a member of staff, or another pupil.
- Pupils are fighting.
- A pupil is engaged in, or is on the verge of committing, deliberate damage or vandalism to property.
- A pupil is causing, or at risk of causing, injury or damage by accident, by rough play, or by misuse of dangerous materials or objects.
- A pupil persistently refuses to obey an order to leave a classroom.
- A pupil is behaving in a way that is seriously disrupting a lesson.

# If in doubt or in need of advice ring the Behaviour Support Service on 0161 437 4956 option 2.

#### Hostage Situation in the School

- If someone is taken hostage in the school premises the school should seek to evacuate the rest of the site and call the Police.
- Key areas of consideration if taken hostage:
  - Do not try to intervene or be a hero.
  - Co-operate fully with the instructions of the hostage-taker.
  - Try to remain calm and spread calmness the children are likely to copy your behaviour.
- If possible, the Incident Manager or nominated deputy should convene key members of the School Critical Incident Management Team outside of the school and make contact with Stockport Council's School Support Service to provide support in managing the incident.
- Students and staff should be separated from the hostage. They should be evacuated from the premises and convened at the designated assembly points or other locations as instructed by the Police.
- Attempt to account for all individuals via registers and identify which persons are still inside the building.
- It is likely that the media will be interested in the incident and would be marshalled by Police officers at the scene, in liaison with the Stockport Council Communications & Marketing Team and the designated school Communications Officer, where available.
- It is unlikely that students or staff would be able to re-enter the school building following the resolution of the crisis until at least the following day. Therefore, school staff should liaise closely with Stockport Councils' School Support Service and the Police to arrange for a safe location to take students until they can be collected by their parents.
- If evacuation isn't possible due to circumstances, then lockdown process should be implemented.

#### Missing Child/Abduction/Runaway

- Where a child is thought to have been abducted the school should immediately call the Police.
- Where a child is missing the Headteacher should alert relevant staff in the school and instigate a search of the school grounds and buildings.
- Consideration will be given to the individual circumstances and the child's records e.g. the child's age, mental capacity, whether the child has never gone missing before or whether the child has a record of leaving school without permission.
- If the child is not found in this immediate search the school should call the child's parents to see whether the child is with them. Care should be taken not to alarm parents unnecessarily, particularly if the student has only been missing for a short period of time and is not thought to have been abducted.
- Teachers should speak to classmates of the missing person who may know of their whereabouts.
- If they are still presumed missing, the school should alert the Police.
- Where the child's behaviour record indicates a history of running away then the school should also contact Stockport Council's School Support Service, who may seek assistance from their Educational Psychology Service and Social Care teams.
- Where staff are available and where it is reasonable to do so, the areas adjacent to the school or where the child is known to frequent will be searched, in liaison with the Police.
- When a pupil goes missing students and staff may be traumatised and some counselling may be needed.
- Irrespective of whether a student goes missing from home or school, it is likely that the school will become involved either directly or indirectly.
- If a runaway returns, he or she will require sensitive reintegrating into school.
- Guidance for managing a missing child when on a school educational visit can be found in the Stockport Council Educational Visits and Journeys guidance.

#### **Identifying Potential Runaways**

- Sometimes a student who is considering running away will regard their teacher as their only trusted adult, so it is important that teachers know what signs to look out for and are able to identify potential children at risk. Some of the unusual patterns of behaviour present in students at risk are:
  - Marked variations in mood, e.g. extreme highs, or outbursts of anger.
  - Appetite change, accelerated weight loss or gain.
  - Depression, lack of motivation, detachment.

- Lack of concentration, extreme tiredness.
- Self-neglect.
- Social changes, disassociation from friends.
- Absenteeism.
- Other factors which can help to assess risk include: previous history, stress-related symptoms, family breakdown and other significant life changes. Many potential runaways feel isolated and a teacher can help by:
  - Taking time to talk and listen.
  - Not probing or appearing judgemental.
  - Helping the student get appropriate help.
  - Teaching the whole class critical life-skills.

#### **Offensive Weapons**

- It is a criminal offence to carry an offensive weapon or knife on to school premises, including playing fields.
- Offensive weapons include knives and guns, but could also include hand tools or even pencil sharpener blades where these are being used or threatened to be used in an offensive manner.
- As a general rule, the Police will be called to deal with any incident believed to involve a weapon. An assessment should be made of the seriousness of the incident to help the Police make their own judgement on the nature and immediacy of the response.
- There may be exceptional circumstances where staff decide they need to take action before the Police arrive.
- It might be appropriate for members of staff to ask a pupil to hand the weapon over willingly or search a pupil who agreed to co-operate, staff however, should act with due diligence. Such action comes within a teacher's authority to discipline a child. However staff are under no obligation to search a pupil themselves. The Police are empowered to undertake a search where a pupil declines to co-operate.
- Teachers should not confront a pupil or person suspected of possessing a weapon in the presence of other pupils if this can be avoided. Preferably two or more members of staff should divert the pupil or person to a place where no other pupils are present.
- Where the person suspected of carrying an offensive weapon is not a registered pupil at the school, or where an incident involving a pupil takes place outside school premises, any search should be undertaken by the Police.

Trespassers/Intruders/Any person who enters the premises without permission

- Schools are private places and any person who enters without permission is a trespasser who may be asked to leave.
- If someone is seen trespassing on the school grounds it may be appropriate for a senior member of staff to ask what they are doing and ask them to leave.
- Students should be kept in the school building when a trespasser is on the premises.
- If a person intrudes into the school building itself they should be challenged immediately.
- Students should be kept inside the classroom until an intruder has left the building.
- If necessary, the Incident Manager should contact the Police and the School Support Service to request support.
- Schools can take steps to reduce trespassing by implementing the following measures:
  - By making it clear that nobody has unrestricted right of access to the school premises not even governors, teachers or pupils.
  - Should have effective badging for all school visitors.
  - By posting notices at entrances to make clear the terms on which people may enter, e.g. report to reception.
  - During the day parents should act as visitors to the school, complying with appropriate school arrangements.
  - Visitors should present themselves at a specified reception point, and follow a sign-posted route to it where necessary.
  - All visitors should sign in and wear means of identification, e.g. visitor's badge.
- Where trespassing becomes a recurring problem, the following additional measures will be considered:
  - The Headteacher (in consultation with the School Support Service and Governing Body) can issue notices to be posted at the entrances to the school site. Such notices will, of course, be welcoming, but will clarify the terms on which people may enter.
  - Those who have a broad permission to enter (i.e. staff, pupils, contractors, outof-hours users) will be informed by letter of the limitations both in terms of time and place as to their permission to enter the premises.
  - Writing to the trespasser where they are known to the school and easily contactable a template for this letter can be found in the Headteacher's Toolkit.
- Such arrangements may not, of course, deter a determined intruder, but they leave no doubt that the school's premises are private and thus provide a clear basis for treating as a trespasser any person who enters the premises without permission.

# **Appendix 2: Specific Incidents Focussed on Property**

#### Bomb Threat/Suspect Packages

Please Note: A separate bomb evacuation point **at least 600m** away from the premises should be identified.

- If you receive a bomb threat or warning by telephone:
  - Keep calm and attempt to write down what is being said by the caller.
  - Try to keep the caller on the phone and ask questions such as; "When will it go off?", "Where is it?", "What does it look like". The words used by the caller can often indicate how familiar he or she is with your premises, thereby giving some indication as to whether the threat is genuine or otherwise.
  - Where possible note any unusual accent or background noise.
  - Once the caller has hung up notify the Headteacher immediately.
- If you receive a bomb threat or warning by post/e-mail:
  - Keep physical handling of the letter to a minimum.
  - Notify the Headteacher immediately.
- Contact the Police and School Support Service.
- Do not touch or remove any suspicious object.
- Seek Police advice as to whether the school should be evacuated this decision is ultimately the responsibility of the school.
- Evacuate the premises if it is necessary to do so using the evacuation procedure and take a register of persons at the designated bomb assembly point.

#### **Evacuation of the Premises**

- All schools should have clear and detailed procedures in place for the evacuation of the building in case of fire or other emergency.
- These should clarify fire assembly points outside of the building which it may be practicable to use in other types of evacuation.
- Evacuation plans should consider the following:
  - Identify several evacuation routes and assembly points (taking into account the needs of disabled staff and students), including a location (not a car park) at least 600 metres from the school.
  - Limit the use of corridors, stairways, exits and walkways during an emergency.
  - Consider the possibility that evacuation could be from inside (classroom) to outside (playground, playing field) or vice versa.
  - Consider that partial evacuation may be sufficient in some cases within 600m (for example on very large school grounds).
  - Include a head-count of all staff and students following an evacuation.

- Include arrangements for contacting parents to let them know where their children have been evacuated to and that they are safe

#### Fire

- Every school will have its own individual fire routine, the purpose of which is to establish what action is to be carried out in the event of a fire.
- It should be in the form of a written notice and cover the basic facts:
  - 1. What to do if you discover a fire.
  - 2. What to do when you hear the fire alarm.
  - 3. Calling the Fire Service on 999.
  - 4. Evacuation.
  - 5. Assembly Point.
  - 6. Roll Call.

7. Consider any specific needs i.e. physical or visual/hearing impairment, of pupils/staff, contractors and/or visitors on site.

- If you discover a fire or one is reported to you operate the nearest fire alarm call point.
- If you hear the fire alarm evacuate the premises immediately, as detailed in the evacuation procedure for your school.
- Schools should also aim to identify an alternative site to which students and staff could be evacuated to, if necessary during the school day where it is not appropriate to send students home.
- Sites that may be considered include neighbouring schools, local community centres, churches etc.
- In the event of such arrangements being required the Police will liaise closely with the school and the Local Authority Health, Safety & Wellbeing Team and School Support Service to provide support and assistance in moving students to a place of warmth and safety.
- Schools should hold a fire drill at least once a term. Guidance has been produced by Stockport Council's Health, Safety & Wellbeing Team and can be accessed on Office Online.
- Evacuation procedures that are successful under practice conditions may be less so in the event of a fire. Fire drills cannot adequately simulate the confusion and uncertainty that can arise in an emergency.
- Evacuation procedures should make allowance for:
  - False alarms in some schools there are so many that initiating the evacuation procedure is delayed until the alarm is confirmed as genuine. This practice is dangerous and must not be used.
  - Full or partial evacuation in large schools, particularly those with a number of separate teaching blocks/areas if there is adequate fire separation between

the blocks. Restricting the evacuation to the block concerned may minimise disruption.

- Controlling pupils the first priority of staff is the safety of their pupils. They may choose to lead their class to safety from the front, so that they are best placed to select the safest route. Alternatively they may decide to guide their class from the rear, in which case route-finding may have to be left to the children leading the way. There is no universally correct procedure.
- Disabled staff and pupils arrangements must be made for the safe evacuation of those with disabilities that may include learning, physical and sensory difficulties. This is the responsibility of the school not the Fire Service.
- The inclusion of groups or other users that utilise the school either out of hours or during school opening hours.

#### Planning Recovery from a Major Fire

• Proper planning supported by staff training can mean that the effects of a major fire are minimised and the school is brought back to normal as quickly as possible. The costs of disaster planning are low, but the benefits can be incalculable.

#### The following points are worth considering:

- A fire might affect parts of the structure containing asbestos, chemicals in laboratories, gas cylinders and other flammable substances. The location of any potential hazards should be noted on the fire plans and these plans should be made available to the emergency services for their safety.
- If the building, or parts of it, needs to be made safe the local authority Health, Safety & Wellbeing Team and School Support Service will liaise with the fire service and organise a contractor who will carry out this work.
- A major fire will disable alarm systems and affect the physical integrity of the buildings. The school site should be made secure immediately after a fire. Not only portable equipment, but also items such as light fittings, radiators and pipe-work are at risk.
- If salvage work is started promptly, much material and equipment can be brought back into full operational order, saving both the cost of replacement and waiting time.
- The Local Authority Insurance Team will liaise with the school to inform the insurance company, liaise with the loss adjuster and agree the insurance claim.
- If classrooms have to be taken out of use, the Services to People Directorate can organise temporary accommodation. If arrangements have been made beforehand, other schools may be able to assist.
- If the school is to be closed immediately after a large fire, the school should work with the School Support Service to ensure this information is effectively communicated to pupils and their parents.
- Should the kitchen area of the school be affected by the fire, the Service to People Directorate may be able to assist in providing temporary solutions to maintain the running of the school. The Headteacher should ensure that any such needs are identified as soon as possible following the incident.
- Further information on fire procedures that should be followed by the school is included in the Local Authority Health and Safety Policies and Guidance.

#### Flooding

To find out if your school is at risk from flooding visit the Environment Agency website and enter your school's post code. All schools at risk should subscribe to the Environment Agency's 'Floodline' alert service. Visit <u>http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk\_</u>or call 0800 807 060.

- In the event of small scale flooding in the school or school grounds:
  - Contact the Caretaker/Site Manager immediately.
  - If the flooding comes from leaking or burst pipes or tanks, switch off the stoptap, isolate the tanks and switch off any heating and hot water plant e.g. boilers and hot water cylinders that are fed from it.
  - In the event of a mains water pipe burst call the water company immediately.
  - If water threatens electrics, switch off the power at the incoming mains.
  - Monitor the situation.
  - If necessary, evacuate the affected area or whole building as appropriate.
  - Contact should be made with the Fire Service if there is significant flooding but only if there is the possibility of a fire.
  - The school Critical Incident Management Team should convene and alert Stockport Council's School Support Service of the problem. It may be necessary to send children home or move them to a suitable nearby site.
- In a situation of major flooding, (notably if access to the site is not possible) the Stockport Council School Support Service will provide guidance and assistance, in liaison with the Environment Agency, to manage the flood situation and to assist the local community. It may be necessary to open a reception centre to house persons whose homes or workplace have been flooded.
- Schools which are at particular risk of flooding should discuss site-specific procedures with Stockport Council's School Support Service during the formation of the school emergency plan.

#### **Reducing Flood Damage**

- There are some quick and easy ways to help reduce flood damage to school buildings and equipment.
- These steps do not require advance planning and will help if there is only a little time to prepare for a flood. However, they should not be attempted beyond a person's competence to carry them out.
  - Turn off gas, electricity and water supplies at the mains.
  - Disconnect cookers, washing machines, dishwashers, etc. connected by rigid pipes to gas and water supplies. This will prevent damage to the pipes if they move or float during the flood.
  - Unplug all electrical items and store away from the ground floor or high up.
- After flooding:

- Gas, electricity or water services should NOT be reconnected until systems are checked by an accredited engineer.
- Appliances affected by floodwater should be allowed to dry out and a qualified electrician, Gas Safe engineer or plumber should be called in to inspect them before use.
- Following a flood, water levels may fluctuate for several weeks. This will depend on drainage and rainfall.
- Repairs should not be attempted until the flooding period has ceased. Builders and other specialists may need to be appointed to get repairs and cleaning up done. On no account should anyone attempt work which is beyond their capabilities.
- As a general rule, flooded school buildings should not be reoccupied until these three steps have been taken:
  - Mud and leaf removal.
  - Cleaning and disinfection.
  - Drying out.
- It is important that cleaning is not attempted if:
  - A building has suffered serious structural damage.
  - A building has large amounts of sediment piled up against it or inside it the forces placed on the building by this may have made the structure unsafe.
- While cleaning up is in process, those who are not involved should stay clear, especially children and pregnant women.
- There are health and safety risks involved in cleaning up. A suitable and sufficient risk assessment should be carried out by a competent person. This should identify the hazards involved, the persons at risk and detail any control measures required. Suitable safety precautions are as follows:
  - Protective clothes should be worn (sturdy boots, waterproof gloves and face masks when handling debris) by those doing the cleaning up.
  - Floodwater may be contaminated with sewage, chemicals or rats' urine. Hands should be kept away from the face while cleaning and should always be washed if direct contact is made with floodwater or silt.
  - All cuts and grazes should be washed and covered with a waterproof plaster.
  - No attempt should be made to move heavy objects that could be unstable. This includes fallen trees.
  - Deep standing water or water that is still flowing fast should not be entered.
  - Standing water can obscure holes, undermine foundations and sharp objects such as broken glass. Movements should be slow and careful.

#### Gas Leak

- If you smell gas, or suspect there is a gas escape, you should immediately do the following:
  - Do not use any electrics, such as light switches.

- Open all doors and windows.
- Call the Caretaker/Site Manager.
- Shut off the gas supply at the meter control valve (if you know where it is).
- Notify the Headteacher of the incident.
- Evacuate part or all of the premises as necessary.
- Call the gas company on their emergency number (CADENT-0800111999)

#### **Heating Failure**

- In the event of a failure of the heating system the Headteacher should alert the Site Manager/Caretaker who will ascertain the cause of the failure and try to get the system working.
- If this is unsuccessful then the school should contact their appointed contractor to assist restoring heating supply.

#### **Required Temperatures**

- The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999:
  - Set a standard of 21C in areas where there is a lower than normal level of physical activity because of sickness or physical disability including sick rooms and isolation rooms, but not other sleeping accommodation.
  - Set a standard of 18C in areas where there is the normal level of physical activity associated with teaching, private study or examinations.
  - Set a standard of 15C areas where there is a higher than normal level of physical activity (for example arising out of physical education) and washrooms, sleeping accommodation and circulation spaces.
- Failure to reach these temperatures is usually a maintenance issue, but where there is a mechanical breakdown which puts the heating system out of action for any length of time, consideration needs to be given to whether it is appropriate for the building to be occupied.
- Where the above temperatures cannot be maintained in the occupied parts of the school, then the Headteacher should consider whether any of the following actions may be appropriate:
  - Take the affected areas out of use.
  - Provide temporary heaters (N.B. this should be subject of a risk assessment by the Headteacher as there may be hazards such as high surface temperatures, naked flames or fumes from bottled gas depending on the types of heaters to be used).
  - If it is not possible to achieve the required temperatures, the Headteacher should consult with Stockport Council's School Support Service to close the school. Consideration should be given to looking after children until they can be collected by their parents, particularly in cold weather.

# **Appendix 3: Communications in an Emergency**

#### **Communications in an Emergency**

#### **General Principles and Means of Communications**

Communication during and following an incident is, of course, of great importance. One of the greatest demands during an emergency is for information and regular updates. People want to know what has happened and what is going to happen next.

Whatever the incident, and particularly if it involves a sudden or traumatic event, the likelihood is that information will be sketchy in the initial period and it will not be possible to answer all queries as to what has happened or to confirm the location of individual persons.

During the initial phase of the emergency response most information will be exchanged by phone to avoid delay. Schools should consider the number of telephone lines, including school mobiles they have available – there may be a need to allocate separate phone lines for:

- Incoming/outgoing calls to responding agencies, partners and staff.
- Contacting parents using texting services.
- Receiving enquiries from parents.
- Receiving general enquiries e.g. media.

The school is likely to have a limited number of phone lines and may need to supplement this with the use of mobile phones. Landlines could be used to take incoming calls whilst mobiles are retained for outgoing calls only. It is essential that mobile phone chargers are readily available.

All calls, both incoming and outgoing, should be logged to include:

- Date and time.
- Name of caller and role e.g. parent or organisation.
- Nature of the enquiry/message.
- Response given.
- Return number, if applicable.
- Further action taken as a result of the call.

Other means of communications which may be used to contact partner agencies or for wider public information include:

- Local radio.
- Television.

- E-mail.
- Fax.
- Letter by post.
- Letter sent home with student.
- Posters.
- Notice boards.
- Answer-phone/voicemail.
- Call centre/help line.
- Conference call.
- Open meetings.
- School web site.
- School Social Media Channels
- Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council website and social media channels.

The Services to People Directorate may be able to assist by providing extra resources, for example, by setting up a telephone enquiry line or providing support in contacting parents.

Additionally, the Services to People Directorate may be able to provide communications staff to attend the school and support in dealing with the media, depending upon the type of incident.

## **Communicating with Parents**

## **Incoming Communication**

In an emergency situation the school will need to ensure that they are communicating efficiently with parents in order to allay fears, and minimise panic or disruption. Parents' needs for information should be managed so as to ensure they do not distract emergency services and school staff from doing their jobs. The majority of schools operate a texting service which allow for a quick and effective communication stream. It is essential that parents get quick and factual information as the speed of information accurate or speculative from mobile networks and social media can rapidly heighten an already tense situation.

There are likely to be a high volume of calls to the school from worried parents once news of the crisis spreads. Those dealing with incoming calls should provide an agreed factual statement along with reassurance of action being taken at the incident site. It is important

to avoid speculation and not to make statements about further information or developments unless confident that it will be available.

When dealing with calls from parents ensure that the language and tone used reassures the caller that the situation is under control. It may also be useful to consider some of the most likely questions the parent will ask, such as:

- Was my child near to where the incident happened?
- Is my child safe and where are they now?
- Where can I collect my child from?
- Who is looking after my child at the moment and will they be kept somewhere safe until I am able to collect them?
- If injured, have they been taken to hospital (if so, which one?), how seriously hurt are they, and who is with them?

Telephones manned by people are preferable to recorded messages on answer-phones or voicemail, as this is unlikely to reassure anxious parents, who may then seek further information elsewhere. Use of regular updates on the schools website are also helpful but schools should be careful what information they place on these as the press would access this for information.

It may also be wise to maintain one or more phones for use by the team handling the crisis. It is important to remember that mobile phones are not necessarily secure and that caution about what is said should therefore be exercised at all times.

#### **Outgoing Communication**

A separate dedicated line is needed for outgoing calls from the school. This might be a mobile phone or a line that cannot take incoming calls. It is also possible to access support from Stockport Council via the Services to People Directorate or Corporate Contact Centre who may be able to assist in taking or receiving calls about the incident where large numbers are affected.

Where there is a need to close the school during the normal working hours, contact should be made with parents wherever possible, noting the safe pick-up point where parents can collect children from. It should be remembered that not all parents will be available to attend at short notice and therefore the school has a responsibility to maintain the welfare of students until such a time as they can be collected. It should be clearly stated in the message given to parents that their child will be looked after until they are collected.

It is important that school records contain accurate and updated information for authorised personnel (in addition to parents/guardians) who are permitted to collect the child in an emergency.

A telephone cascade system may be a fast way of circulating urgent information as it prevents one person having to make many phone calls. This involves each family that is contacted passing the message on to other parents. Telephone cascades are only as reliable as the weakest link and should not be used to communicate sensitive information e.g. concerning casualties, as this information will come direct to parents from the school.

Wherever possible, letters should be sent to parents, possibly to be taken home with students at the outset of the incident, as this may reduce the number of subsequent incoming enquiries. This letter should cover the following key points:

- An explanation of what has happened.
- Reassurance that the school and Stockport Council have emergency planning procedures in place to deal with incidents.
- An indication of how long the disruption could last.
- An explanation of where/how they can obtain further information.

Some key considerations that the school should bear in mind when communicating with parents are as follows:

- An understanding and appreciation of parents' concerns for the safety and well-being of their children in an emergency situation.
- The school's emergency response should remain person focused rather than purely process driven.
- Communication with parents/guardians will be drafted and delivered in an informative, honest and reassuring manner.
- The school should not seek to down-play serious issues it is important to ensure parents are given the facts.
- The school should treat parents of the injured (and deceased, if applicable) as individuals, not members of a group.
- Parents should be informed of important facts by the school **before** they are released through the media.

#### Contact Families directly affected by the Incident

Communications with the families of those persons who have been directly involved or injured needs to be conducted quickly and with sensitivity.

Consistency of information is vital so it is best to avoid using a chain of communication. If a parent cannot be contacted by telephone it may be necessary to leave a message asking them to get back to you urgently.

It may be appropriate to invite parents to come into school, or to another agreed secure venue, to be available to receive further information. This venue should be away from areas that the public/press could observe or have access to.

It is likely in such circumstances that some people may need immediate emotional support. It is likely that where persons have been seriously injured or killed that the Police

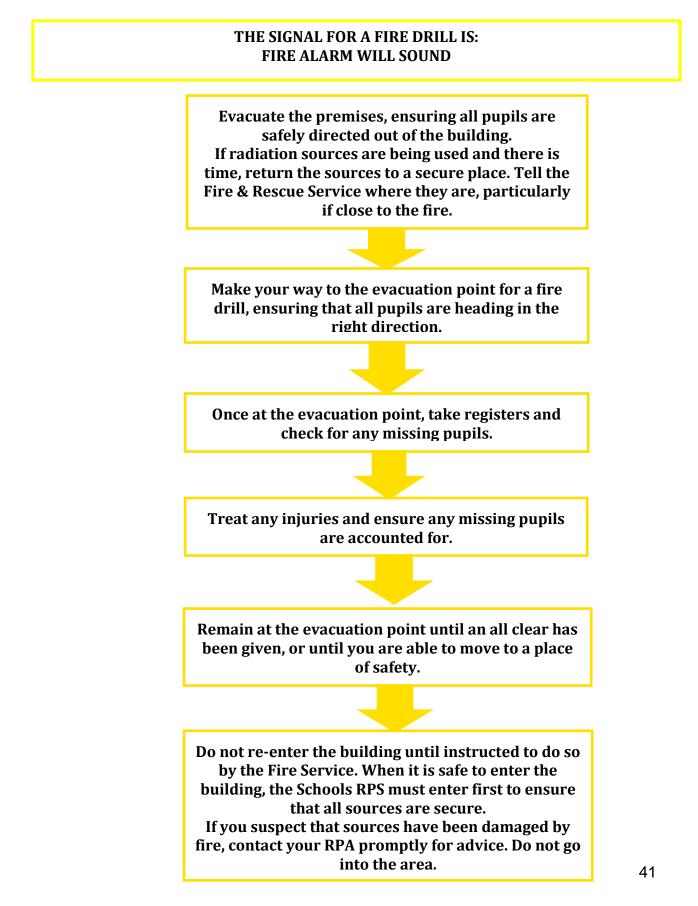
will take a forward role and may deploy a Family Liaison Officer to a family, notifying them of what has happened and guide them through the next stages, providing support wherever possible.

In such circumstances it is possible that Stockport Council will have deployed social care workers to assist those affected, in conjunction with health services, and voluntary organisations.

## Appendix 4: Fire Drill/Evacuation, Lockdown, Bomb Evacuation and Shelter Drills

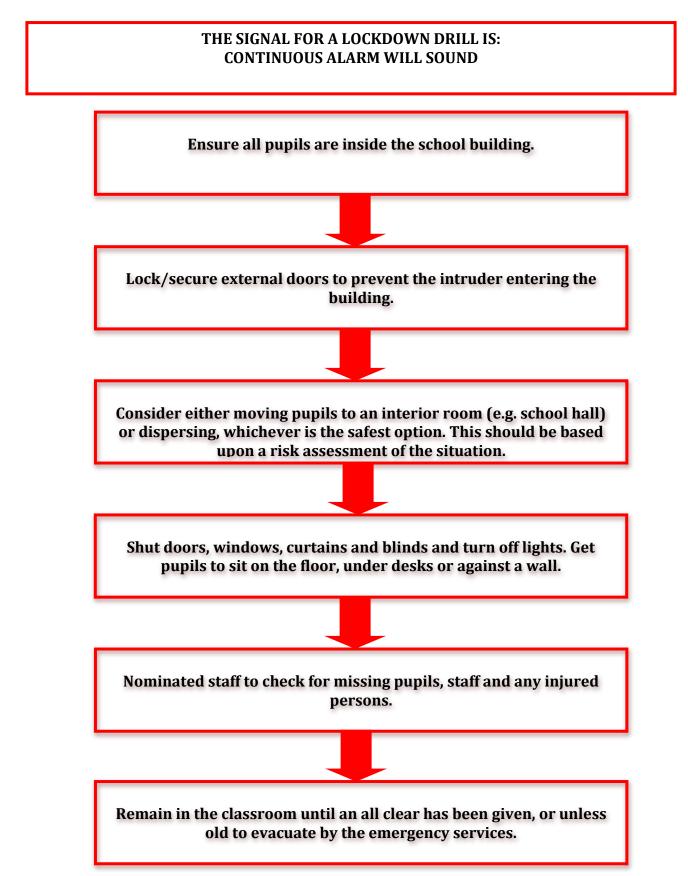
#### **Fire Evacuation Drill**

The first person to notice a fire should activate the signal for the fire drill.



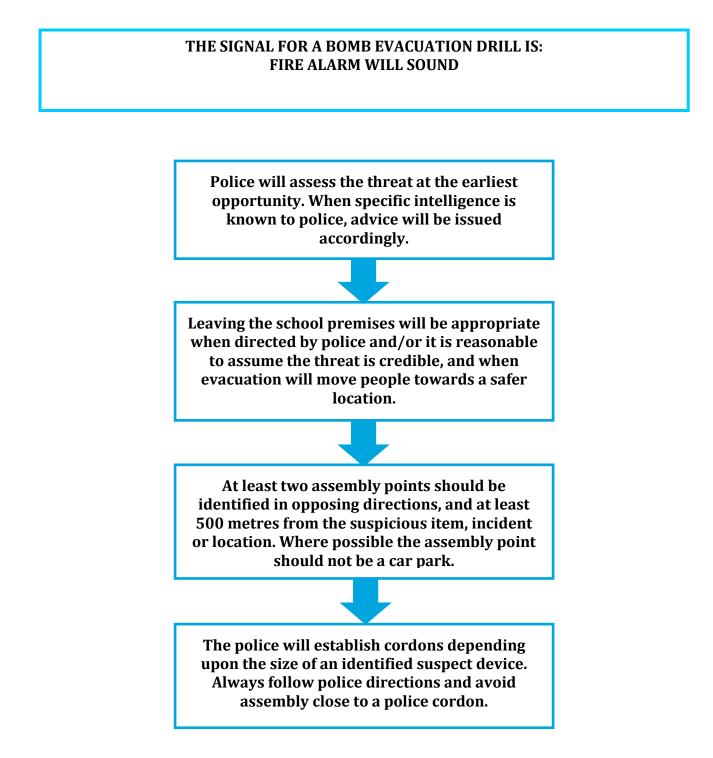
### Lockdown Drill

The first person to notice an intruder should activate the signal for the lockdown drill.



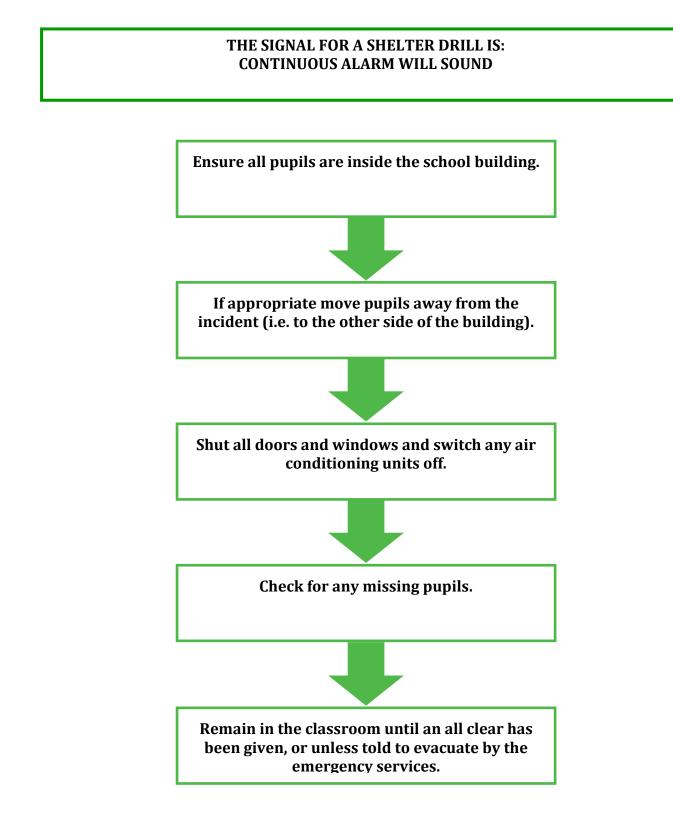
#### **Bomb Evacuation Drill**

No matter how ridiculous or implausible the threat may seem, all such communications should be reported immediately to the police by dialling **999**.



#### Shelter Drill (in the event of smoke/toxic fumes)

On receiving notice of a need to shelter, the signal for the shelter drill should be activated.



# Appendix 5: The Impact of Critical Incidents on Organisations and Individuals

The effects of a critical or traumatic incident can be wide ranging and variable depending on the individual, their age, their involvement/proximity to the event and any pre-existing vulnerabilities. **Often these reactions are normal reactions to an abnormal event.** 

Potential reactions might include:

- Tears and sadness.
- ➤ Fear.
- > Anxiety.
- > Anger.
- Confusion about the event.
- Numbness/feelings of detachment.
- Difficulty sleeping and/or fear of the dark/disturbing images and recurrent memories of the event.
- Difficulty concentrating.
- > Diminished energy levels.
- Reduced appetite.
- Guilt about the incident (such as survivor guilt and/or reflecting on own actions regarding the incident i.e. could I have done more/what if?).
- Somatic problems such as headaches/aches and pains.
- Lack of energy and motivation.
- > Difficulties with memory.
- > Hyper-vigilance/exaggerated startle response.
- > Avoidance of stimuli associated with the trauma.
- Separation anxiety and/or apparent indifference in young children.
- > Behavioural changes (especially in children/young people).

Effects on the school community

- Immediate impact may involve shock, disbelief and denial, especially for those who witnessed the event.
- Can be disruptive and de-stabilising to the general day to day running of the school.
- Effects can be long lasting, depending on the nature of the event and pre-existing vulnerability of the school community.
- > Certain situations and anniversaries can trigger reminders of the event.
- Role strain can become a major source of stress in staff, especially when someone is required to act beyond the authority of their normal role.

It is important to note that good non crisis leaders are not necessarily the best crisis leaders and roles may need to be re-defined in the event of a critical incident.

## Appendix 6: General Advice on how to Support Children and Young People at Times of Crisis

#### How can we support children at times of crisis?

- Try to answer questions as honestly and accurately as you can in words that the child will understand. Be prepared to seek feedback from the child about what you have told them so that you check out whether they have understood you or not. You may then have to re-phrase what you have said at a simpler level.
- Try to maintain as many familiar routines and structures as possible. If the situation is new for example a reception centre try and establish some routine and structure for the child as this provides a sense of security.
- Be patient and calm.
- Allow children opportunities to talk about their feelings and let them know it is okay to cry.
- Listen to what they say but don't ask for information or seek details about what happened, as this could re-traumatise the child.
- Do not hide all your own feelings help children understand that it is normal for everyone to feel upset by such events.
- Be ready to LISTEN but do not be upset/surprised if a child chooses not to talk. They might express their feelings in other ways such as through their play, drawing or their behaviour. Try to ensure that opportunities for play, drawing, and writing are available to them.

#### Young people can be encouraged to: -

- Identify a crisis friend or friends who they can turn to. This maybe someone in their own family or not.
- Keep their body going through eating, sleeping and taking exercise in small amounts.
- > Use their religious/personal beliefs to help them through.
- > Believe in themselves and their ability to get through this.
- > Let out their emotions where it is safe.
- Imagine good times and places and how they would want things to be.
- Use their head to work out plans, what has happened, what they can do and need, who can help and plans for the future.
- > Tell their story through dance, drama, music, writing etc.
- Ask for help if they want to hurt themselves in any way or find that they are turning to drugs/alcohol as a means of coping.

In the case of young people it is important to recognise that they, like adults want information and support but also have a need to feel that they have some choices and alternatives and some power to choose. Often our desire to protect them, as we would do younger children can interfere with the process of them regaining some sense of control over their lives. Even with younger children, fostering resilience and positive coping strategies to cope with the immediate and the future is more helpful than being over protective and trying to shelter them from the truth, however painful this may be. **Seeking additional help and support** 

Children and adults often experience distress following a traumatic incident, however, counselling/therapeutic services are not advised in the immediate to short-term. Most

people, including children, who have encountered a major incident find that they get better over time with the help and support of family friends, school and community. If children (or adults) are still having significant difficulties after a month, then it may be appropriate to seek professional advice (e.g. Psychology Service, GP, HYMS).

This is general advice only and schools should seek more detailed advice from the Education Psychology Service, Behaviour Support Service and Stockport's Care and Control revised guidance (2014).

## Appendix 7: The C.A.L.M.E.R approach.

The CALMER approach has been adopted by the Services to People Directorate's Psychology Team as an effective intervention for supporting individuals who have experienced a traumatic event. It replaces Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (also referred to as psychological debriefing or debriefing), as this approach is no longer recommended due to concerns about its efficacy and potential to cause harm (see National Institute for Clinical Excellence and World Health Organisation).

The CALMER approach was developed by Dr Marion Gibson who has assisted in disaster situations world-wide. It is designed to be used in the immediate aftermath of a crisis and is the approach adopted by The Red Cross's Crisis Response Team.

CALMER aims to develop coping and resilience through the provision of information and the facilitation of social support, individual and community efficacy.

CALMER reminds first responders of the need to be calm and thoughtful in their responses and it serves as an acronym for the six sequential stages:

- Consider Assessment of risk and need. (Safety)
- Acknowledge Recognition of diversity. (Efficacy)
- Listen Good communication skills. (Connectedness)
- Manage Planning and Evaluation. (Calm)
- Enable Recognising resilience. (Hope)
- Resource Signposting and Self Care

The first two stages focus on increasing feelings of safety and security and acknowledging and responding to individual needs and contexts, including awareness and adjustments of response in meeting the needs of people with particular vulnerabilities (e.g. the needs of children and young people).

The next stage considers how responders might facilitate trust and develop rapport through listening skills. The later stages refer to how responders help to develop a person's self-efficacy and sense of control and where they can access further support, including social support from family and friends.

# **Appendix 8: Psychological First Aid**

The Directorate's Psychology Service uses Psychological First Aid as a framework when responding to critical incidents.

The approach referred to as Psychological First Aid was developed by a Clinical Psychologist, Dr Kendall Johnson, in the 1990s.

In brief, Psychological First Aid is an approach that aims to help pupils establish normal functioning and promote longer-term resilience. It helps to educate pupils as to the impact of trauma and how they can look after themselves and how others can look after them. It fosters recovery and independence rather than dependency and pupils seeing themselves as victims. It also educates parents/carers and school staff as to how to support children and young people to recover from traumatic incidents.

#### For pre-schoolers its main aims are to: -

- ➢ Re-establish a sense of trust and security.
- Re-establish self-control and autonomy.

#### For Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils its main aims are to: -

- Bolster self-esteem.
- ➢ Relieve guilt.
- Re-establish productivity.
- Provide reassurance of safety.

#### For Key Stage 3 upwards it aims to: -

- Reassure about normality of reactions.
- Inoculate against secondary reactions.
- Emphasise stress management.
- Facilitate identity development.
- Reaffirm life direction.

## Appendix 9: Support Available to Schools – Psychology Service

The Directorate's Psychology Service provides a critical incident response on behalf of the Local Authority. The Educational Psychology Team has specialist knowledge, skills and training on trauma informed approaches and the team is experienced in supporting schools and organisations following critical incidents/traumatic events.

#### What the Psychology Service can offer

The Psychology Service can work closely with staff to tailor approaches and responses geared to meet the needs of pupils, staff and parents/carers, depending on the nature, timing and severity of the incident. They will co-ordinate and liaise with other Council services as well as external support agencies (e.g. Healthy Young Minds), as appropriate.

The Psychology Service will respond in a number of ways:

- Immediate telephone advice and guidance to head teachers/ school leadership team following notification that a critical incident has occurred. This initial contact will be used to offer immediate guidance and to assess the needs of the school and the level of support required from the Psychology Service.
- Access to leaflets and booklets for schools, parents/carers and children and young people.
- Where appropriate, Educational Psychologists (EP) (usually the school's link EP and a senior colleague) will visit the school/setting to provide advice and support to the school leadership team/staff. The aim is to promote individual and organisational resilience and coping as part of a Psychological First Aid approach. This includes support with the development of an immediate, medium and long-term plan of action in the wake of a traumatic incident.
- In some cases the Educational Psychologists may work with individual and groups of children, staff and parents to offer trauma-informed guidance and support. We do not provide counselling/therapeutic intervention for children or adults who have been exposed to trauma in the immediate to short term period following a traumatic incident, as this can interfere with normal recovery and is not recommended (see NICE guidance). Also, evidence shows that children and young people respond best when they are helped and supported by familiar adults who they know and trust.

We know that schools are likely to cope most effectively if they have anticipated a major incident and have planned the response. The Psychology Service can assist schools with their contingency plans and provide training to help schools to become trauma-aware.

The Psychology Service can:

• Work with schools to audit and review the school's plans and processes for responding and dealing with critical incidents;

- Provide advice and guidance on the curriculum (e.g. content and resources) to improve knowledge and understanding about bereavement, loss, trauma and resilience;
- Deliver training to staff on trauma, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), risk and resilience as related to their school population.

# **Appendix 10: Incident Information Sheet**

These are the likely questions you may be asked when contacting emergency services or agencies external to the school.

| Where are you currently<br>located and what is your<br>telephone number? |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
| What has happened?   |  |
| Time, Date, Location of<br>Incident?                                     |  |
| Have the emergency services been involved?                               |  |
| By whom?   |  |
| Have they arrived?   |  |

| Has anyone been injured?                                   |  |
|--|--|
| Do you have details of who they are?                       |  |
| Do you have details of their injuries?                     |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Where are the injured currently located?                   |  |
|  |  |
| Who is with them?  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Are there any fatalities?                                  |  |
| The there any fatalities.                                  |  |
| De very herre detaile of                                   |  |
| Do you have details of who they are?                       |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 1. Details and current<br>location of the non-<br>injured. |  |
|  |  |
| 2. Name/contact number of any supervising adults.          |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

| Time and date of report.          |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
| Name of person making the report. |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
| Name of person giving the report. |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
| Subsequent action taken.          |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
|                                   |  |
| Name of person giving the report. |  |

| Governing Body   | Crisis Manager  | Media Liaison   | Pastoral Care<br>Coordinator   | Administrative<br>Coordinator   | Administrative<br>Support  | Incident Record<br>Coordinator  |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| 1.   | 1.  | 1.  | 1.   | 1.  | 1.   | 1.  |
| 2.   | 2.  | 2.  | 2.   | 2.  | 2.   | 2.  |
| <ol> <li>Support the Crisis<br/>Manager</li> <li>Liaise with<br/>Governing Body</li> <li>Assist with<br/>finance and<br/>welfare measures</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Overall direction<br/>and coordination</li> <li>Liaison with:         <ul> <li>Emergency<br/>Services</li> <li>StPD</li> <li>SMBC</li> <li>Media</li> <li>Governors</li> <li>Staff &amp;<br/>Parents /<br/>Carers</li> </ul> </li> <li>Control and<br/>record of<br/>spending</li> <li>Allocate roles to<br/>others</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Inform StPD</li> <li>Prepare media<br/>brief / statement<br/>on facts and<br/>school response</li> <li>Keep informed:         <ul> <li>StPD</li> <li>Students</li> <li>Staff</li> <li>Parents /<br/>Carers</li> <li>Community</li> </ul> </li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Pastoral care for<br/>students and staff</li> <li>Operational issues<br/>as directed</li> <li>Parent / carer /<br/>visitor liaison</li> <li>Timetable issues</li> <li>Liaise with:         <ul> <li>Psychology<br/>Service</li> <li>Educational<br/>Welfare Officer<br/>and</li> <li>Social Services</li> </ul> </li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Manage incoming<br/>calls</li> <li>Gather and<br/>disseminate<br/>information</li> <li>Identify 'safe'<br/>areas in school for<br/>parent / carers /<br/>pupils or organise<br/>the designated<br/>emergency<br/>evacuation<br/>premises</li> <li>Liaise with:         <ul> <li>Contractors</li> <li>Utilities</li> <li>Repairs</li> <li>Accommodation<br/>Issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>Transport<br/>communications</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>General Enquiries</li> <li>Reception</li> <li>Parent / Carer /<br/>Visitor liaison</li> <li>Record keeping</li> <li>Other duties as<br/>required</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Incident record<br/>keeping</li> <li>Collation of<br/>message sheets</li> <li>Chasing<br/>outstanding<br/>'actions'</li> <li>Maintenance of<br/>central log</li> </ol> |

# Appendix 11: School Incident Management Team (Roles and Responsibilities)

# Appendix 12: Emergencies in Schools – Initial Action List for Head teacher

#### Action list for head teacher or nominee coordinating SIMT

**Initial Action** 

Ensure that accurate, factual information is available for those arriving at the scene. Liaise with the Police, Fire and Ambulance Services, StPD Incident Team, and other agencies who may become involved. Act as the main contact to coordinate response and give your contact details.

Inform the chair of governors.

Check accuracy of information and inform all staff and parents/carers of injured pupils. Decide how to inform other parents/carers.

Ensure staff maintain a log of actions and decisions.

Allocate tasks below among SIMT as appropriate.

#### Action list for SIMT

#### Welfare

Take actions to secure the immediate safety of pupils and staff – this may include evacuation to the designated emergency evacuation premises or keeping pupils and staff inside the building at a safe and secure location.

Establish the whereabouts of all pupils, staff, and visitors using timetables, registers and the visitor's book, and make a list of those unaccounted for. Take medical and health plans relevant to individual pupil requirements.

#### Communications

Consider emergency communications needs. Dedicate lines for incoming and outgoing calls and arrange extra support for reception. If necessary, seek support from StPD Incident Team, who can assist in managing enquiries from the public and if required implement a Help Line.

Line to be used for incoming calls only: 0161 442 7424 School Office Line to be used for outgoing calls only: 07447 345400 School Mobile Phone

#### **Media Management**

Liaise with the Council's Communications & Marketing Team within Information and Communication as early as possible to prepare a press statement – to be agreed by the Senior Adviser – School Support, School Head and the Chair of Governors.

Ensure that media access to the site, staff and pupils is controlled. In a major emergency, the Police will assist with press liaison and control site access. Be aware of the potential problems caused by the spread of misinformation through the use of mobile phones.

#### Resources

Ensure access to the site for emergency services.

Open/close parts of the school as required, and turn off water, gas and electricity supplies if necessary.

Ensure the security of the school premises.

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## **Appendix 13: Emergencies in Schools – Further Actions List for** Head teacher

#### Action list for head teacher or nominee coordinating SIMT

#### **Action Review**

Provide regular briefings for staff and continue to liaise with the emergency services and StPD.

Try to maintain normal routines as far as possible.

| Try to maintain normai routines as fai as possible.                                     |   |
|---|---|
| Tell the staff involved to prepare a written report of their involvement, noting events |   |
| and times. Inform the Council's Health, Safety & Wellbeing Team who will advise on      | 1 |
| reporting procedures, and inform trade unions if necessary. The 'Reporting of           |   |
| Incidents, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations' (RIDDOR) accident             |   |
| report forms should be completed and, in the event of serious injuries or a fatality,   |   |
| the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) should be informed as soon as possible within     | 1 |
| 24 hours of the incident occurring (this will be brokered through the Health, Safety    | 1 |
| & Wellbeing Team so schools do not have to contact the HSE themselves)                  |   |
| Allocate tasks listed below among SIMT.   |   |

#### Action list for SIMT

#### Communications

Inform pupils, in groups as small as practicable, considering the best way to impart information (advice is available from the Educational Psychology Service).

Inform parents/carers of children not directly involved in the incident, as decided by the head teacher or nominee. Use any existing arrangements for contacting parents/carers quickly and efficiently.

Control/limit appropriate visitors to the school, ensuring they sign in and out and are issued with identification badges.

#### Welfare

Establish a staff rota and ensure that staff take regular rest periods.

Identify those pupils and/or staff who are badly affected, and who need extra support.

Make arrangements for reuniting pupils with their parents/carers.

Take account of faith and cultural factors, and consider contact with leaders of local faith communities. In particular, some faiths may wish to hold funerals within 24 hours of death, so swift and sensitive enquiries must be made to ascertain whether it would be appropriate for representatives of the school, including pupils, to attend.

#### **Media Management**

Liaise with the Communications & Marketing Team to prepare a press statement, to be agreed by the headteacher and to decide the ongoing strategy for facilitating the press.

Use a prepared statement and decide who will be interviewed by the press if necessary.

#### **Resources**

Establish a safe and secure base for the SIMT.

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## **Appendix 14: Emergencies on Educational Visits**

The head teacher or his/her pre-agreed nominee should be immediately informed of any incident by the visit leader.

## **INITIAL ACTION BY HEAD TEACHER OR NOMINEE**

| 1: Maintain a written record of your actions using this pro-forma and attached log sheet.                             |  |                                      |                                 |  |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Offer reassurance and support. Be av<br>can affect behaviour and judgement.   | ware that all those involved in the inci | dent, the school and you may be expe | riencing trauma and shock which |  |
| 2: Find out what has happened. Ol<br>Who informed you of the incide   |  |                                      |                                 |  |
| Name  | Status                                   | Telephone Number                     | Additional telephone numbers    |  |
|   |  |                                      |                                 |  |
| Where are they now  |  | I                                    |                                 |  |
| Where are they going  |  |                                      |                                 |  |
| 3: Remind the visit leader to follow the emergency procedure advice in the Council's 'Visit's and Journeys Guidance'. |  |                                      |                                 |  |

| 4: Record the details of the off-site activity/visit during which the incident occurred. |        |                     |              |  |
|--|--------|---------------------|--------------|--|
| Location and nature of activity  |        |                     |              |  |
| /visit   |        |                     |              |  |
| ,  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
| Name of person in charge of the  |        | Telephone number(s) |              |  |
| visit or activity  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
| Number of people on the visit  | Pupils | Teachers            | Other Adults |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |
|  |        |                     |              |  |

| 5: Record the detail | c of the incident  |        |              |                |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------|--------------|----------------|
|                      | s of the incluent. |        |              |                |
| Date and time of     |                    |        |              |                |
| incident             |                    |        |              |                |
| Location of          |                    |        |              |                |
| incident             |                    |        |              |                |
|                      |                    |        |              |                |
|                      |                    |        |              |                |
| XA71 . 1             |                    |        |              |                |
| What has             |                    |        |              |                |
| happened             |                    |        |              |                |
|                      |                    |        |              |                |
|                      |                    |        |              |                |
|                      |                    |        |              |                |
|                      |                    |        |              |                |
|                      |                    |        |              |                |
|                      |                    |        |              |                |
|                      |                    |        |              |                |
|                      |                    |        |              |                |
|                      |                    |        |              |                |
|                      |                    |        |              |                |
| People affected      | Name               | Injury | Location now | Being taken to |
| •                    |                    |        |              | 5              |
|                      |                    |        |              |                |
|                      |                    |        |              |                |
|                      |                    |        |              |                |
|                      |                    |        |              |                |
|                      |                    |        |              |                |
|                      |                    |        |              |                |
|                      |                    |        |              |                |

| Emergency<br>Services involved<br>and advice they<br>have given          |                        |  |
|--|------------------------|--|
|  |                        |  |
| Names and<br>addresses of<br>hospitals and<br>other premises<br>involved |                        |  |
| Arrangements for<br>those not directly<br>involved in the<br>incident    |                        |  |
| Name of person in<br>charge of your<br>group at the<br>incident          | Telephone<br>number(s) |  |

6: Depending on the scale of the incident, consider assembling the School Incident Management Team

## **Emergencies on Educational Visits**

## Action list for head teacher or nominee

#### COMMUNICATION

Inform school staff as appropriate, depending on the time and scale of the incident.

Consider emergency communications needs. Dedicate telephone lines for incoming and outgoing calls and arrange extra support for reception if required.

Incoming lines/location: 0161 442 7424 School Office

Outgoing lines/location: 07447 345400 School Mobile Phone

Inform parents/carers of any injured pupils – immediately inform these parents/carers of what has happened and where their child is. Record what their plans are e.g. to travel to the incident location, any assistance they need and any means of communications with them (mobile phone etc.). In the event of a major incident the Police may give advice regarding naming badly/fatally injured people. You may also need to inform

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the next-of-kin of any staff who have been involved. Note: The Police may wish to deliver messages directly, particularly where continuity of an investigation is required.

Inform all parents/carers of other pupils on the visit but not directly involved in the incident then contact them as appropriate. You may have arranged an information cascade system as part of the activity/visit planning arrangements. Parents/carers should hear of the incident from the school (or from the activity/visit leader), not from hearsay or the media. Information given must be limited to the facts which are clarified as accurate at the time. All parents/carers must be informed.

Inform/update the Chair of Governors.

Refer to the Incident Response Levels and Emergency Contacts list.

Call the relevant person(s) named in the StPD Critical Incident Team or 24 hour Control Room on 0161 474 5554

The StPD officer can offer:

A: Local Authority assistance at school and other locations.

B: Help with arranging travel and transport between the incident, parents/carers and school.

C: Guidance and support with media issues, including press statements and interview briefings.

D: If the incident is in another UK authority, establishing links with that authority.

If outside the UK communication with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO),

British Consulate, foreign Police etc.

If the activity/visit is abroad and the incident results in medical or other expenses, the risk and insurance section or any other insurers used should be informed as soon as possible.

Inform pupils, parents/carers and staff. Decide what information can be given – remember that information given must be limited until the facts are clear and all involved have been informed. In the event of a tragic incident, consider seeking support from the Psychology Service.

#### MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS

Consider introducing controls on school entrances and telephones.

Staff, pupils should be told to avoid talking with the media or spreading the story via social media particularly unsubstantiated facts and prior to all parties having been informed. The use of mobile phones should where possible be controlled for this purpose.

Liaise with the Council's Communications & Marketing Team within Information and Communication as early as possible to prepare a press statement – to be agreed by the Senior Adviser – School Support, School Head and the Chair of Governors.

#### RESOURCES

Arrange a quiet space to receive parents/carers of the children involved. Consider secure access, away from media interest.

#### **REPORTING OF ACCIDENTS**

Tell the staff involved to prepare a written report, noting events and times. Inform the Local Authority Health, Safety & Wellbeing Service who will advise on reporting procedures and if required, trade unions. Staff may wish to submit draft reports to their union for guidance.

Accident report forms should be completed and in the event of serious or fatal injuries, the Health and Safety Executive should be informed as soon as possible within 24 hours of the incident occurring (Health, Safety & Wellbeing team will deal with the HSE direct).

In such cases there may also be a Police enquiry.

# **Appendix 15: Incident Log**

Use this log to record actions required and the reason for your decision

| Incident:                |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Location<br>of Incident: |  |
| Date:                    |  |
| Time:                    |  |

The following section to be maintained as the incident progresses:

| Date | Time | Event | Action Taken |
|------|------|-------|--------------|
|      |      |       |              |
|      |      |       |              |
|      |      |       |              |
|      |      |       |              |
|      |      |       |              |
|      |      |       |              |
|      |      |       |              |
|      |      |       |              |
|      |      |       |              |
|      |      |       |              |
|      |      |       |              |

| Time | Event | Action Taken   |
|------|-------|----------------|
|      |       |                |
|      |       |                |
|      |       |                |
|      |       |                |
|      |       |                |
|      |       |                |
|      |       |                |
|      |       |                |
|      |       |                |
|      |       |                |
|      |       |                |
|      |       |                |
|      |       |                |
|      |       |                |
|      |       |                |
|      |       |                |
|      | Time  | Time     Event |

| Name: | Designation: |  |
|-------|--------------|--|
|       |              |  |

# **Appendix 16: Expenses Log sheet**

| Incident:             |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Location of Incident: |  |
| Date Time:            |  |

Maintain a log below of expenses incurred as a result of the above incident:

| Date        | Time        | Costs incurred & brief description | Expenses |
|-------------|-------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| Please atta | ach any ema | ails sent and received             |          |
|             |             |                                    |          |
|             |             |                                    |          |
|             |             |                                    |          |
|             |             |                                    |          |
|             |             |                                    |          |
|             |             |                                    |          |
|             |             |                                    |          |
|             |             |                                    |          |
|             |             |                                    |          |
|             |             |                                    |          |

| Name: | Designation: |  |
|-------|--------------|--|
|       |              |  |

## Appendix 17: Emergency Contacts – School Incident Management Team

| CONTACTS - SCHOOL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM |                 |                |                  |
|--|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Name                                       | Role(s)         | Home Telephone | Mobile Telephone |
| Mr Patrick Rayner                          | Headteacher     | 0161 355 5518  | 07817382403      |
| Mr Andrew Clerc                            | Deputy Head     | 0161 483 0974  | 07765037605      |
| Miss Emma Smith                            | Assistant Head  |                | 07740344044      |
| Mrs Lynne Ingham                           | School Business | 0161 442 2928  | 07941689659      |
|  | Manager         |                |                  |

| CONTACTS – INFORMATION CASCADE TEAM       |                         |               |             |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| NameRole(s)Home TelephoneMobile Telephone |                         |               |             |
| Mr David                                  | <b>Inclusion Leader</b> | 01706 212 439 | 07807054918 |
| Middlebrough                              |                         |               |             |
| Mr Jon Longworth                          | Site Supervisor         |               | 07990013012 |
| Mrs Michelle                              | Administration          |               | 07967218148 |
| Garner                                    | Officer                 |               |             |

| CONTACTS - SCHOOL SUPPORT                 |                           |               |             |
|---|---------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| NameRole(s)Home TelephoneMobile Telephone |                           |               |             |
| Andrew Moore                              | <b>Chair of Governors</b> | 0161 235 5431 | 07834242247 |
| Keith Ross Vice Chair                     |                           | 0161 432 5636 |             |
|   |                           |               |             |

Appendix 18: Emergency Contacts – Services to People Directorate Incident Management Team & Other Council Contacts

| CONTACTS - Directorate INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM<br>(for out of hours see control room below) |               |              |             |  |
|--|---------------|--------------|-------------|--|
| Contact Office Mobile Contact Colours  |               |              |             |  |
| Chris McLoughlin   | 0161 474 3921 | 07800 618855 | Red         |  |
| Tim Bowman   | 0161 474 3934 | 07989425653  | Red         |  |
| Lynn Perry   | 0161 474 3488 | 07800617976  | Amber       |  |
| Devon Sherwood   | 0161 474 3895 | 07891949488  | Amber/Green |  |
| Ann Marie McCullough   | 0161 474 4290 | 07800 618131 | Amber/Green |  |
| Julia Storey   | 0161 474 5657 | 07800 618042 | Amber/Green |  |
| Email (during office hours): <u>schmansupport@stockport.gov.uk</u>                           |               |              |             |  |

| CONTACTS - | COUNCIL | 24 HOUR | <b>CONTROL ROOM</b> |
|------------|---------|---------|---------------------|
| CONTACTS-  | COUNCIL | 24 HUUN |                     |

**Control Room** 

## 0161 474 5555

Red/Amber

# The 24 hour control room holds out-of-hours contacts for all departments and the on-call Forward Incident Officer

| <b>CONTACTS – INFORMATION &amp; COMMUNICATION</b> |               |                             |      |                 |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------|------|-----------------|
| Contact   | Office        | Mobile                      | Home | Contact Colours |
| Alison North                                      | 0161 474 3068 | Office hours                | only | Red/Amber/Green |
| Paul Kendal                                       | 0161 474 3114 | Office hours only Red/Amber |      | Red/Amber/Green |

| <b>CONTACTS – OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS AREAS</b>                      |               |              |                 |
|---|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Contact   | Office        | Mobile       | Contact Colours |
| Solutions SK<br>School Scene<br>Cleaning Service                    | 0161 474 5577 | 07800 618496 | All             |
| Martin Powell<br>StPD Psychology Service                            | 0161 474 3867 | 07800 617917 | All             |
| Ann-Marie McCullough<br>Corporate H&S                               | 0161 474 4290 | 07800 618131 | All             |
| Dr David Baxter<br>Health Protection &<br>Control of Infection Unit | 0161 474 2440 | N/A          | All             |

# Appendix 19: Emergency Contacts – Emergency/Medical Services/Public Services

| EMERGENCY / MEDICAL SERVICES   |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Service                        | Telephone                                |  |  |
| Police                         | 999/0161 872 5050                        |  |  |
| Fire Station                   | 999/0161 609-1627                        |  |  |
| Ambulance                      | 999/0845 1120999                         |  |  |
| Stepping Hill Hospital         | 0161 483 1010 (Switchboard)              |  |  |
| Stepping Hill Hospital         | 0161 419 4110 (Emergency Department Main |  |  |
|                                | Number)                                  |  |  |
| Stepping Hill Hospital         | 0161 419 4812/4813 (Paediatric Emergency |  |  |
|                                | Department)                              |  |  |
| Master Call Out of Hours GP    | 0161 476 2299                            |  |  |
| NHS Direct                     | 111                                      |  |  |
|                                | <u>www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk</u>              |  |  |
| Health Protection & Control of | 0161 474 2440                            |  |  |
| Infection Unit:                |  |  |  |
| David Baxter/Sarah Turner      |  |  |  |

| PUBLIC SERVICES |                           |  |  |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| Gas             | National Grid Gas         | 0800 111 999<br>http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/gas/  |  |
| Electricity     | Electricity North<br>West | 0800 195 4141(Public Emergency Number)<br>http://www.enwl.co.uk                                      |  |
| Water           | United Utilities          | 0345 672 3723<br>http://www.unitedutilities.com/emergencies.aspx                                     |  |
| Flood Line      | Environment<br>Agency     | 0800 807 060<br>http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk   |  |
| Weather         | MET Office<br>Emergency   | Tel: 0370 900 0100 or 01392 885680<br>http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/                                   |  |
| Food            | Food Standards<br>Agency  | 0345 051 8466 (Public Emergency Number)<br>0207 276 8829<br><u>helpline@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk</u> |  |
| Animals         | RSPCA                     | 0300 1234 999 (Public Emergency Number)  |  |

## **Appendix 20: Emergency Contacts – School Suppliers, Services and Contractors**

| SCHOOL SUPPLIERS / SERVICES / CONTRACTORS |                                 |               |  |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Intruder Alarm                            | Solutions SK Security Systems   | 0161 474 5555 |  |
|   | West Lancs – Graham Shaw        | 01253 884 501 |  |
| Fire Alarm Off                            | Redcare Testing                 | 0844809980    |  |
| Watch                                     |                                 |               |  |
| SIMS                                      | David Sadgrove/Lesley Danaher/  | 0161 474 3920 |  |
|   | Tracey Carley                   | 0161 474 2276 |  |
|   |                                 |               |  |
| Stockport Homes                           | Kate Meredith                   | 0161 218 1481 |  |
|   |                                 | 07976241724   |  |
| Robertsons                                | Utilities                       | 0161 2176999  |  |
|   | School Meals                    | 07387416558   |  |
| Dolce                                     | Karen Farrington (Area Manager) |               |  |
|   |                                 |               |  |
| School Finance                            | Sarah Kirby                     | 0161 474 3887 |  |
| AVA                                       | Bobby Cheng                     | 0161 474 2289 |  |

## **END OF DOCUMENT**