



**The Castle School**

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## **School Security Policy**

**Date: June 2024**

CEO: Lorraine Heath

Headteacher: James Lamb

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## Introduction

The staff and children of The Castle School need to work and learn in a safe environment. This document is the policy of The Castle School and represents measures agreed between staff and governors to promote the security and personal safety of staff, students and visitors, together with the protection of the school premises.

Whilst responding to potential threats is very important, it is also important to strike the correct balance between providing a welcoming environment and turning the school into a fortress. Bearing in mind the geography (open fields, shared campus, etc) of The Castle School, it would be most difficult to totally eradicate all threats to security. Notwithstanding these difficulties, there is a need to ensure that security is improved and that it is an on-going concern.

## **Aims**

People come first and therefore the aim of this policy is the protection of staff, students and visitors first, followed by the protection of the school building and equipment.

## **Policy details:-**

1. The Trust Premises Manager will liaise with Officers from the local Police, the Fire Service, and the County Council as necessary, in the pursuit of developing risk reduction strategies.
2. A register of security incidents will be introduced and maintained. This will contain details of any situation, incident or potential problem.
3. Where considered appropriate staff, students and parents will be made aware of what measures are being taken, together with the reasons why. The support of staff, students and parents will be encouraged.
4. All matters affecting the well-being of staff and students within the Trust will be subject to on-going review and therefore this policy will evolve according to the school's needs. However, this policy will be reviewed regularly.
5. The process of developing and operating a comprehensive security policy will be supported by training for staff and governors.
6. The chosen solutions will be kept under review for their effectiveness.

## **SECURITY MANAGER**

The Governors have agreed that the School Premises Manager should take on the role of Security Manager and report to the Governing body as required regarding monitoring, effectiveness and recommendations.

## **PERSONAL SAFETY**

### **Staff**

Employers have a duty, under Health & Safety legislation, to ensure that employees, so far as is reasonably practicable, are provided with a safe place of work. The responsibility includes the need to ensure that each person is safe from assaults. Vulnerable staff may include:

- Caretaking staff/cleaning staff
- Staff working alone
- Home visitors
- Those engaged in evening working
- Those working with students with behavioural difficulties
- Those involved in supervising and disciplining students
- Those dealing with angry parents or relatives of students

Whilst training (techniques for preventing and avoiding violence, calming, acceptable methods of restraint and communication skills) is very important, policies should be set in place to minimise the opportunity for staff to be put in these difficult situations.

Governors have agreed that the following must take place:-

1. All legitimate visitors are clearly identified by means of a visitor's badge obtained from Reception. **All visitors are required to sign in and out of the school and are to provide details about their car registration (if applicable).**  
  
Visitors' badges or ID badges must be visible and worn at all times.
2. Work in isolated rooms late/before the normal school day should be minimised. It is recommended that staff inform caretakers where they are so that routine checks can be made.
3. To inspect signage on an annual basis to ensure that visitors know that they are expected to call at Reception.
4. Caretaking staff are required to lock off areas of the school as soon as they are no longer in use, and partially set the alarm system accordingly.
5. All incidents and 'near misses' should be reported to the School Premises Manager for recording in order to update security provision.

6. Intruders should only be approached when staff are accompanied by another adult. Staff to be given details of their powers in law.
7. When responding to a call out, duty staff should await the arrival of the police/alarm response company. Under no circumstances should they attempt to enter the school until the police have arrived.
8. Caretakers on duty have a mobile phone or walkie talkie. This should be 'on' at all times to allow the two-way communication in times of emergency.
9. If a member of the public is showing signs of extreme agitation and refuses to calm down, seek help from a member of the Strategic Leadership Team. A decision will then be made whether or not to call the Police (999).
10. Students are encouraged to inform a member of staff if they see anyone who is not wearing identification. This will be the subject of a session within the PSHE programme.
11. That staff wear identification at all times to aid all of the above processes.

### Students

The risk to students comes from intruders as well as from fellow students (the latter is covered in the school anti-bullying policy). Students are encouraged as part of the PD/PSHE programme to report to the nearest member of staff if they see anybody on site who is not wearing a visitors' badge. They should never approach intruders themselves. Students should not remain on the school premises unsupervised and if they do stay late they must wait inside the school buildings and be supervised by a member of staff until parents pick them up.

There should be no reason for any member of the public to have access to the site without having been vetted via reception first and allocated a visitor's badge. Break time and lunchtime duty staff are asked to be particularly vigilant looking out for trespassers on the site. Visitors leaving the school site when Reception is closed are asked to leave their visitors' badges in the secure box provided.

School staff, including site staff, are under strict instruction to challenge any individuals on site who they have reason to believe are not engaged in a valid activity and/or are acting in a suspicious manner.

If any member of staff has concerns about a 'visitor' they should report these immediately to a member of the Strategic Leadership Team.

### THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS ON SCHOOL TRIPS

Staff involved with offsite trips must ensure that sleeping accommodation is as secure as possible without compromising the ability to escape in case of a fire. If possible, this kind of information should be sought prior to departure.

A risk assessment should be made for each activity held offsite. All elements of the activity should be included in the risk assessment, ie:-

- Notification to parents
- Early arrival time at school
- Modes of transport
- Precise timetabling
- Freedom of movement during the activity
- Toilet safety
- Returning home after school hours.

If a problem does occur, then the keeping of precise records will help, ie an itinerary, attendance lists and the name of a senior contact point for each activity.

## BUILDINGS

Perimeter security is most difficult to maintain, but it is vitally important, therefore, that there are good signs as well as a known policy about wearing visitors' badges. Visitors should not only sign in, but should sign out also. Visitors should always be escorted around the site unless the following criteria met:

- The visitor has an enhanced DBS certificate which has been seen and recorded by the school  
OR
- The visitor's employer has provided the school HR officer with a "letter of assurance" confirming that all relevant pre-employment checks have been carried out including the issuing of an enhanced DBS certificate

Visitors are also required to show photo ID to the school reception on arrival to verify their identity.

Because of the size of the school and the fact that there are numerous external doors, there is a considerable security risk posed. At the end of the school day it is requested to the last user of a room ensures that all windows are closed. In any event, caretaking staff have responsibility for securing the school and this includes closing windows, locking doors and setting the intruder alarm system.

All staff cars should have agreed and approved identification. This is available from the school office. No vehicles should be parked immediately next to school buildings in such a way as to provide a 'ladder' onto other parts of the building.

All tools and ladders should be locked away each day – if they are not, an opportunist thief could use them. Caretaking staff will carry out regular (daily) checks of security fittings to ensure that they are working properly.

Cupboards should always be locked – this will help to minimise the threat of both arson and theft.

The school has CCTV cameras, which act as a deterrent to potential security breaches.

### DEALING WITH AN EMERGENCY

If there is an intruder on the premises and there is a hint of danger to individuals or property, the Police should be called (999) to escort him/her off the premises and a member of the Leadership Team should be called immediately. If judged necessary the lockdown alarm can be sounded by breaking the green call points that are located in the main office or the SENCO Office (Q3c) in the Qdos building. Separate procedures apply in the case of fire and this is covered in the Trust Health & Safety Policy Statement. If any of the fire alarms are activated, all staff on site must evacuate the buildings and assemble on the tennis courts.

### BOMB THREATS

The Trust policy follows advice received from Somerset County Council concerning bomb threats received by telephone. As soon as any such message is received, the respective Headteacher, Business Manager or a Deputy Head (dependent upon availability) should be told immediately.

As soon as it is clear that a bomb threat is being made, the caller should be allowed to finish his/her message without interruption. Take down exact details of what is being said, listening for clues to the following:-

- The caller's sex and approximate age.
- Noticeable condition affecting speech, i.e drunkenness, laughter, anger, excitement or incoherency.
- Background noises, i.e music, traffic, talking or machinery.

When the caller has given his/her message, try to keep him/her in conversation and ask, if possible, the following key questions:-

- a) Where exactly is the bomb located?
- b) What time will it explode?
- c) What does it look like?
- d) When was it placed there?
- e) Why was it placed?
- f) Who are you?
- g) Where are you?

Staff are requested to note whether the caller repeated his/her message or any part of it. Note the exact time of the call. Write the message down and then contact a member of the Leadership Team immediately and notify the Police immediately. Repeat the message exactly as you received it and then fill in the other details you were able to get.

## KEEPING STAFF AND STUDENTS INFORMED

The student handbook should include details about security and the role that students take in helping to keep the site secure.

All staff should be given access to a copy of this policy. A copy will be kept on the school website, and staff are encouraged to make recommendations about improvements to the Security Policy. Students are welcome to make comments about security and this is discussed at senior student meetings.

## CRISIS MANAGEMENT

*A more detailed summary of the actions to be taken in the event of a Critical Incident occurring can be found in the Trust Critical Incidents Policy Document.*

A central point of contact helps to deal with a crisis (major fire, assault, death, etc). Normally, this will be the Headteacher or, in their absence, a member of the Strategic Leadership Team. At his/her discretion the central contact will:

1. Initiate emergency procedures.
2. Prepare a press release in consultation with the Blackdown Education Partnership central team.
3. Inform all staff of the extent of the situation.
4. Inform students not involved with the crisis and reassure them.
5. Inform parents of the student(s) involved.
6. Ensure, where possible, that the school continues to operate.
7. Ensure that the school telephone lines are staffed and that notes are taken of all conversations.
8. Inform the Governors.
9. Involve, if necessary, specialist services, ie counselling.
10. Inform parents that children may be upset, even if not directly involved.
11. Visit the injured in hospital/attend funerals/organise a memorial/special assembly.
12. Devise strategies for easing pupils back into school after lengthy absences.
13. Establish a detailed log of all related matters.

## ANNUAL REVIEW AND MONITORING

Security issues should be considered on a regular basis. Recommendations on policy changes as well as spending should form part of the Premises Development Plan. Details of thefts and security breaches should be monitored at these meetings.