

Parent Information - School Lockdown

In light of the event on 15 March, please read and ensure you are familiar with the following information.

What to do during a Lockdown

There is a very clear procedure for the staff to follow, which is a direct result of expert advice sought by the school in 2017. There is a practice each term for a lockdown which is generally either preceded by, or followed up with, a discussion around the process with pupils. The Lock Down Plan below is an outline of what staff and children follow at school.

Parents are encouraged to do the following:

- Please stay up to date with what is happening at school by referring to the school website. Information will be displayed on the home page. This is more reliable for information than email or texting. The Aidanfield Facebook page will also be updated as often as possible, but the website is the first option.
- Please do not phone the school. The office staff are asked to use the phones only to confirm information from the Ministry of Education and the Police (who collaboratively enforce a state of lockdown).
- We encourage parents to stay away from school. Under lockdown, the procedure is very clear, no-one in, no-one out. We will not release anyone from classrooms, nor will we open doors to allow parents to come inside. This is something we did this time to try to clear the volume of parents who turned up, but advice from Police and other expert sources states this is not good practice. We will wait at school until all children have been collected, and realise that some of you may well be in a state of lockdown at your places of employment, and unable to collect them immediately after the lockdown is lifted. We will care for your tamariki until such time as we can safely deliver them to you.
- Trust that the staff will take the best possible care of your child/children. While it might not be comfortable, the intent of lockdown is to remain safe until we are cleared by the Police and Ministry of Education to release pupils. We will care for your children until we are able to send them home with you. The school is putting things in place for emergency toileting, snacks and ability to drink water to ensure we are better prepared in any future scenario.
- We would invite you to think carefully about your response to your children following an event such as we experienced. Showing signs of panic or fear as you collect your child may be unsettling for others as they continue to wait to be picked up. This would be true also of how much you allow your child to know of details following an event. Living in a bubble of protection does not grow resilience, but giving full and frank information to a child may be equally harmful. What is important is that a child keep this information to themselves, not sharing it with peers on return to school, which honours the individual decision of each parent as to whether they tell their child or not.
- Be aware that any traumatic event is likely to stir up a range of emotions in different people. For many, it may mean a recurrence of unsettled behaviours – being unwilling to be alone, bedwetting, fear of the dark, fear of going to busy places etc. It is also likely to leave people feeling extremely tired, and this may take weeks, or even longer, to recover from. Treat each other carefully over these times, and while not giving in to fear, acknowledge the reality of it, whilst working to restore resilience, confidence and trust into individuals with whom we interact.
- Do what is best for your family / child immediately, but return to family routine as soon as possible, and spend as much time together as is possible in the following few days. Routine is one of the greatest things to have in place following a traumatic event. When children return to school, teachers will be very much watching each child for signs of stress and will inform you, if appropriate, of this. However, we will get back into routine as quickly as possible. Routine celebrates stability in a world which brings unexpected and unwanted change to life. We will show age appropriate awareness with the children, but leave any significant involvement in public events (remembrance services etc) to you as parents.
- PRAY. While this is the last item on this list, we ask that, despite the emotional turmoil you may be in, that this become the priority during, and after a lockdown event. It is prayer that can bring so much that is necessary at such times. Do not be reluctant to seek medical advice around stresses if this is necessary, but allow God's perfect timing (which is so often nowhere near as fast as we would like Him to act), to restore peace to our troubled minds.

Lamentations 3:22-23

22 Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.



LOCK DOWN PLAN



AN EVENT OCCURS OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS WHICH POSES AN IMMEDIATE THREAT TO STUDENTS OR STAFF AT AIDANFIELD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

A LOCK DOWN IS INDICATED BY THE LOCK DOWN ALARM WHICH IS THE INTERMITTENT RINGING OF THE SCHOOL BELL

LOCK DOWN PROCEDURES ARE INITIATED AND POLICE ARE ADVISED - DIAL 111
STAY ON THE PHONE WITH EMERGENCY SERVICES IF REQUIRED TO DO SO

TEACHERS TO CLEAR ALL TOILETS, HALLWAYS AND ANY OTHER RESOURCE ROOMS OR ROOMS WITHIN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY

GO INSIDE OR STAY INSIDE - LOCK DOORS AND WINDOWS - TURN LIGHTS OFF AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES ONTO SILENT

LIE FACE DOWN IN THE CENTRE OF THE ROOM ON THE FLOOR, AWAY FROM DOORS AND WINDOWS

MINIMISE NOISE AND MOVEMENT

BE AWARE THAT FURTHER INFORMATION MAY TAKE SOME TIME - BE PATIENT

ONLY A MEMBER OF THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM WILL PHYSICALLY RELEASE ALL ROOMS