Approved: September 2025
Review Date: August 2027
Adopted: September 2025

St John Fisher Catholic College : Response to Lockdown

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

A “Lockdown” process is a standard health and safety procedure, similar to a fire drill.

Our “Lockdown” process would be used when there is a threat to the safety of learners, staff and others in the school, and when it is safer for everyone to remain in school rather than evacuate. The aim is to keep all people in the school safe by confining them to a secure place of safety.

Situations where our lockdown procedure may be used include:

- A potentially dangerous person or animal on the school site;
- A disturbance or dangerous situation in the local community that could affect the school;
- A nearby chemical incident or other risk of air pollution;
- An incident related to terrorism.

We have a “lockdown” process that ensures that all people in the school are notified in a prompt manner that school is in “lockdown”. Learners are advised that if not in a classroom, they are to report to the nearest classroom or occupied office. There are processes in place to ensure all learners are accounted for. Staff take many different measures to ensure learners are safe and secure. Where there is a need, emergency services are contacted directly by the school. Measures are taken to respond to eventualities including electrical failure.

In the event of an actual “lockdown”, parents and carers will be informed through the school website, social media and email as soon as possible. Parents should not attempt to call or come to the school as this may hinder the school’s effort to contact and work with the emergency services. In the event of an actual “lockdown”, I would strongly advise and ask parents not to discuss the event on social media, as this may spread false information and create panic. Learners are instructed not to use mobile phones during a “lockdown”, so parents should not be alarmed if your child does not answer their phone.