



Pelsall Village School
Every Child Every Chance Every Day

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Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

Established 1916

6.10.25

Dear Parents/Carers,

We wanted to follow up on our message sent out on Friday evening in relation to an unknown individual on our school grounds.

Unfortunately, but thankfully, only a very small minority of parents have viewed our actions negatively.

The vast majority of parents have praised us for our actions/carrying out the plan along with people commenting positively on social media.

We felt some further context would also support parents' concerns:

During last year, all Walsall schools engaged in work alongside the police to put in place an 'emergency procedure'. This came as an action following an incident at a Walsall Secondary School where, by the school's later admission, they could have done things much better. One of the major issues was parents being contacted at the time of the incident which resulted in chaotic scenes at the school gates which resulted in at least 2 members of the school community going to hospital for injuries sustained in the confusion.

As a result, all schools were invited to meetings to ensure that a 'correct and proper' process was organised in all schools. The key points of which are as follows:

1. A variety of incidents may result in a school needing to employ a lockdown. For example, this could be a toxic fire in a nearby building or a 'police activity' in a nearby street. This could also potentially be an intruder on school grounds.
2. In all situations, assessment of the risk and any 'intelligence' around the situation is critical. Part of the training supported SLT to make the appropriate assessment of risk.
3. In the case of an emergency leading to a lockdown, parents are not informed until directed by the POLICE who would be supporting at the time. This is to prevent potential further issues and ensures the safety of the children but also other family members/members of the public.
4. The emergency procedure or process has three or four levels before 'Lockdown'.

As a result, the incident on Friday followed the plan. Children and families did not need to be unduly alarmed. As we stated, school kept contact with the police so that we could be certain it was safe for parents to collect and children to be released. As a matter of courtesy, we informed parents later in the afternoon.

We would like to acknowledge that in the instance on Friday, no children were outside at the time the individual was on the school grounds. Situations such as this were discussed at length at the training and again all school's have actions for such situations.

Unfortunately, despite the required safety fencing around our school perimeter, part of our grounds back on to the houses and gardens on Wolverhampton road. We have reviewed the fencing and will be installing 'spikes' or 'intruder wire' to the top of the 7ft gates of the Nectar area as this potentially the only breachable point.

We have also contacted Walsall authority in relation to checking the exterior fencing around our site.

Once again, thank you to all parents who have supported our quick and appropriate response.

Yours sincerely

Pelsall Village School.