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Ethos Academy Trust

Lockdown Policy 2025 -2026

1	Summary	This policy details the measures taken by Ethos College in the event of a centre lockdown during examinations.			
2	Responsible person	Head of Centre			
3	Accountable ELT member	Mel Kilner			
4	Applies to	Ethos College			
5	Trustees and/or individuals who have overseen development of this policy	N/A			
6	Headteachers/Service Heads who were consulted and have given approval (if applicable)	Mel Kilner			
8	Ratifying committee(s) and date of final approval	Head Teacher			
9	Version Number	1.6			
10	Available on	Every	Y	Trust Website Academy Website Staff Portal	N N N
11	Related documents (if applicable)				
12	Disseminated to	Entire College			
13	Date of implementation (when shared)				
14	Date of next formal review	November 2026			
15	Consulted with Recognised Trade Unions	N/A			

Date	Version	Action	Summary of changes
20/09/23	1.4	No Changes	
17/10/24	1.5	Minor Changes	Updated Key staff involved
24/11/25	1.6	Minor Changes	Updated Key staff involved

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1. Key staff involved in the lockdown policy/procedure

Role	Name(s)
CEO	Chris Davis
Head of centre	Rebecca Smith, Mel Kilner
Exams officer	David Connon
SLT member(s)	Diane Parkinson, Rich Billings, Lindsey Ellis
Invigilators	All members of staff who are trained as invigilators

2. Purpose of the policy

This policy details the measures taken at Ethos College in the event of a centre lockdown during examinations.

A lockdown may be required in the following situations:

- ▶ an incident or civil disturbance in the local community which poses a risk
- ▶ an intruder on the site with the potential to pose a risk
- ▶ local risk of air pollution, such as a smoke plume or gas cloud
- ▶ a major fire in the vicinity
- ▶ a dangerous animal roaming loose
- ▶ any other external or internal incident which has the potential to pose a threat to the safety of exams staff and candidates

Ethos College has devised lockdown procedures after consulting GOV.UK's Stay Safe guidance.

With regard to conducting examinations, the focus before, during and after an exam will be:

- ▶ the welfare and safety of exam candidates and centre staff engaged in the conducting of examinations
- ▶ maintaining the integrity and security of the examinations/assessments process
- ▶ how to achieve an effective lockdown
- ▶ how to let people know what's happening
- ▶ training staff engaged/involved in the conducting of examinations
- ▶ STAY SAFE principles (Run, Hide, Tell)

Roles and responsibilities

Head of centre

- ▶ To ensure that a dedicated lockdown alarm tone is in place and recognised by all staff and candidates
- ▶ To ensure that all staff involved in the conducting of examinations are trained in how to raise the alarm for a lockdown, act effectively and made aware of their responsibilities
- ▶ To arrange appropriate training for all exams-related staff in lockdown procedures
- ▶ To ensure that candidates are aware of the procedures relating to a lockdown, particularly those arriving late for an examination who cannot access the exam room due it being locked down
- ▶ To ensure that all candidates and staff are aware of an exit point in case an intruder manages to gain access, or the room becomes unsafe
- ▶ To provide written lockdown procedures for exam room/invigilator use
- ▶ To inform the relevant Emergency Services immediately in the case of any potential threat to the safety of exams staff and candidates

Senior leadership team (SLT)

- ▶ To have accountability for all exams staff and candidates taking examinations during a lockdown
- ▶ To run training/drills for examination candidates on lockdown procedures
- ▶ To inform parents/carers about the centre's Lockdown Policy in relation to the conducting of examinations
- ▶ To have a presence around exam room areas prior to the start of each exam session
- ▶ To liaise with the appropriate authorities and awarding bodies regarding candidates taking examinations during a lockdown
- ▶ To use the exam room seating plans to compile a list of all candidates not accounted for

Exams officer

- ▶ To train invigilators in the centre's lockdown procedure
- ▶ Where safe/possible, to liaise with SLT/invigilators in all exam rooms during a lockdown
- ▶ To assist with lockdown training for staff and students where applicable to the conducting of examinations

Invigilators

- ▶ To be aware of the centre's lockdown procedure
- ▶ To complete attendance registers (on the seating plan) as soon as possible so candidates can be identified in the event of a lockdown

- ▶ Where safe/possible, to communicate with the exams officer during a lockdown to confirm the situation in a particular exam room

3. Lockdown procedure

3.1 Before an examination

If a lockdown is required as candidates are entering/waiting to enter the exam room, the following procedure will be employed:

- ▶ A member of SLT will be present around exam room areas
- ▶ Candidates will be instructed to remain in the corridor
- ▶ Candidates will be instructed to remain silent, sit against a wall/around a corner but not near the door
- ▶ Where safe/possible, the SLT member will communicate (via mobile phone) the situation to the exams officer (ensuring that all mobile phones are on silent and non-vibrate mode)
- ▶ The exams officer will collate the information from all exam rooms and forward this to the head of centre immediately
- ▶ Invigilators will
 - take an attendance register/head count if possible
 - (if the threat is a chemical or toxic release) instruct candidates to cover their nose and mouth (their own clothing can be used) and attempt to use anything to hand to seal up cracks around doors and any vents

3.2 During an examination

If a lockdown is required during the exam/when candidates are in the exam room, the following procedure will be employed:

- ▶ Invigilators will:
 - tell candidates to stop writing immediately and close their papers (face up)
 - collect the seating plan (= attendance register)
 - make a note of the time when the examination was suspended
 - instruct candidates to remain silent, leave all examination materials on their desks and hide in the safest possible place in the room
 - where safe/possible, communicate (via mobile phone) the situation to the exams officer (ensuring that all mobile phones are on silent and non-vibrate mode).
 - lock all windows and close all curtains/blinds
 - switch off all lights
 - lock all doors and/or use tables, or any other furniture, to barricade the entrance to the examination room
 - (if the threat is a chemical or toxic release) instruct candidates to cover their nose and mouth (their own clothing can be used) and attempt to use anything to hand to seal up cracks around doors and any vents into the room

- ▶ Where safe/possible, the exams officer will collate the information from all exam rooms and forward this to the head of centre immediately
- ▶ The head of centre will make informed decisions on alerting parents/carers, awarding bodies and emergency services
- ▶ If appropriate, where safe/possible, and following centre policy, the exams officer (or invigilators in the absence of the exams officer) will initiate the emergency evacuation procedure
- ▶ The exams officer will collect all examination papers and materials for safe/secure storage following advice from the appropriate awarding bodies

3.3 After an examination

If a lockdown is required after the exam/as candidates are leaving the exam room, the following procedure will be employed:

- ▶ Invigilators will:
 - stop dismissing candidates from the exam room
 - instruct candidates who have left the room to re-enter the exam room
 - instruct candidates to remain silent and hide in the safest possible place in the room
 - where safe/possible, communicate (via mobile phone) the situation to the exams officer (ensuring that all mobile phones are on silent and non-vibrate mode).
 - lock all windows and close all curtains/blinds
 - switch off all lights
 - lock all doors and/or use tables, or any other furniture, to barricade the entrance to the exam room
 - (if the threat is a chemical or toxic release) instruct candidates to cover their nose and mouth (their own clothing can be used) and attempt to use anything to hand to seal up cracks around doors and any vents into the room
- ▶ Where safe/possible, the exams officer will collate the information from all exam rooms and forward this to the head of centre immediately

3.4 Ending a lockdown

- ▶ The lockdown will be ended by either
 - the sound of a defined alarm or
 - the identification/authorisation of Emergency Service officers/SLT/head of centre entering each exam room
- ▶ A specific word or phrase may be used to confirm that the instruction to end the lockdown is genuine
- ▶ Invigilators will undertake a head count/register and confirm attendance with the exams officer/SLT

- ▶ Where applicable and if advised to do so by SLT/ head of centre, and following JCQ guidelines, if there is sufficient time remaining, candidates may restart their examination
- ▶ Invigilators will then:
 - ask candidates to return to their desks, remind them they are under exam conditions and allow a settling down period
 - recalculate the revised finish time(s) to allow for the full exam time
 - tell the candidates to open their papers and re-start their exam
 - amend the revised finish time(s) on display to candidates
 - note how long the lockdown lasted on the exam room incident log (to later inform a report to the awarding bodies and where relevant, any centre-wide lockdown recording form/log)
- ▶ The exams officer will
 - provide a report of the incident for awarding bodies (via the special consideration process or as advised by awarding bodies)
 - safely/securely store all collected exam papers and materials pending awarding body advice/guidance
- ▶ Where applicable/possible/available, SLT/exams officer will
 - negotiate any alternative exam sittings with the awarding bodies
 - offer, arrange and provide support services to staff and candidates
- ▶ At the earliest opportunity, SLT/head of centre will prepare a communication to parents/carers advising them of events (including relevant actions and outcomes)
- ▶ Where possible, exams staff and candidates will be invited to attend a meeting led by the head of centre to discuss the lockdown and offer ongoing support
 - If this is not possible, communications will be provided via a centre text/email/ newsletter and information uploaded to the centre website

Procedures

Invigilators have their phones and a walkie talkie with them (on silent and non-vibrate mode)

Invigilator can switch on the walkie talkie if they need to raise the alarm. Pause the exam, take a note of the time it was stopped. Follow lockdown procedures.

The runner/s will have a walkie talkie with them at all times. In the event of a lockdown they will enter the exam rooms and alert everyone. The invigilator will then switch on their walkie talkie for further communications.

For exams with one candidate and one invigilator but no runner, staff working closest to that room will need to alert them by entering the room. A note should be added to the daily briefing as to which rooms/times are involved that day (the exams officer will email SLT the day before)