

Lockdown Drills

The purpose of a school lockdown drill is to protect the children and adults in the building from a potential emergency. As with fire evacuations the hope is to acclimate students and teachers to a procedure that they will be able to follow quickly, effectively, and safely.



Lockdown drills are different from evacuation drills. Evacuation drills are designed to prepare students, teachers, administrators, and other people in the school to leave the building quickly and in a pre-planned and organised fashion in the event of danger such as a bomb threat, when conditions outside the building are safer than the conditions inside the building.

In a lockdown drill, students are to report to the nearest available classroom where dependent on the situation they may continue learning or they are to hide and stay as silent as possible.

Talking to Your Child

Find out what your child knows about lockdown drills. Ask them if they know what these drills are and if they know what to do in the event of an emergency like a dangerous intruder. Most students react to lockdowns as part of the usual school routine, much as they would react to a fire evacuation. While they may find the change in routine confusing or difficult, few children are likely to respond with real fear or anxiety.

If your child hasn't taken part in a drill yet, take the time to explain what they might experience during a lockdown drill so that they know what to expect. Reassure your child that these drills, like fire drills, are just to practice how to stay safe in the extremely unlikely event that someone dangerous enters the school.



If participating in school lockdown drills triggers any anxiety in your child about scary news, find out what they are thinking, what they think they know, and what they are afraid of or worried about. If they remain distressed, please contact your child's teacher/ Resources such as social stories may be produced to assist your child.

Young children often have lots of misconceptions about things they see and hear. You may need to clear up any confusion your child has about school lockdown drills.

Often, children are comforted by the message that lockdowns, like fire evacuations, are just one more way adults make sure their children are safe.

