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Principal: Mrs C Stanyer

1st March 2023

Dear parent/carers,

Emergency Lockdown DRILL Procedures

It is that time of the year where we carry out our Annual Lockdown Procedure Drill, just like a fire alarm drill. Lockdown procedures are important, proportionate and a sensible response to any serious internal or external threat that has the potential to pose a risk to the safety of students, staff or visitors within the building or premises. Every school should have lockdown procedures to safeguard everybody who is on site.

Lockdown procedures may be activated in response to any number of situations including;

- reported incident/civil disturbance in the local community
- an intruder on the school site with the potential to cause harm to students or staff
- a warning being received regarding risk locally of air pollution (smoke plume, gas cloud etc.) or biological, chemical or radiological hazards
- a major fire within the vicinity of the school
- the close proximity of a dangerous animal roaming loose
- an extreme weather event

The Academies' procedure aims to minimise disruption to the learning environment whilst ensuring the safety of all students and staff. The drill will take place week beginning 6th March 2023 and will involve all students and staff. Form Tutors will be sharing this procedure with their form group during this week with the intention of the academy carrying out a lockdown **drill** to ensure that everyone is clear in what they have to do. During form time the students will be reminded of the importance of having a drill and to stress they have nothing to worry about as we are all here to keep them safe.

Parents also have a role to play in lockdown procedures, should a lockdown take place parents and carers are asked:

- to communicate the same message to their child that the school is a safe place and the drill is to ensure that everyone knows what to do in a real situation
- to be aware that calling the school for additional information could block vital lines of communication compromising safety

We would kindly ask that you take the time to speak with your child about these safety procedures and reinforce its importance. We practice these drills to ensure our academy remains a safe place for all.

Kind regards

Mr Darlington
Assistant Principal

Ormiston Meridian Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

