



THE WENSLEYDALE SCHOOL
& SIXTH FORM
LEYBURN

9 November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

EMERGENCY PLANS AND POLICIES

I would like to take this opportunity to give you an update from Stuart Carlton, Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Service at County Hall in Northallerton, following the unprecedented events in the news last week and to provide you with further details of our school's emergency plans and policies.

Mr Carlton wrote to all Headteachers last week and below are relevant excerpts from that letter:

"... an update from North Yorkshire County Council on developments relating to incidents this week relating to the arrests of two 14-year-old boys on Saturday, 28 October, 2017 in Northallerton, on suspicion of preparing for an act of terrorism..."

... Police have said they believe it was an isolated incident and the wider community was not at risk.

The council's staff are working with the families involved, as well as providing support, through the police, health and wider partners, to all those affected by the investigation....

We fully recognise that there are concerns as a result of these arrests. We are working with the police to provide reassurance and following our plans and procedures to ensure we continue to prioritise the needs of our students, parents, staff and wider community..."

Part of the advice given by County has been to write and implement an emergency 'Lockdown' Policy for our school. I wrote to you about this in my Newsletter at the end of the summer term and a copy of this policy is now attached. It outlines the actions we would take in the event of a full or partial lockdown being necessary. At this stage, I have not yet spoken to the students about this procedure, but at some point next week, we will have a full school assembly, explaining why this is necessary and we will practise the drill. Obviously students will be concerned so we are also inviting the Police to give a full assembly regarding the PREVENT strategy and the nationwide picture.

We are aware that we live in difficult times and whilst it is highly unlikely that I will ever have to implement such drastic action at school, I wanted you to be reassured that we are prepared and have followed County guidance.

Secondly, it is coming to the time of year when the weather can start to cause disruption to the school day. As in previous years, we have a 'snow policy' of how to get students safely home if the weather turns whilst we are at school. However, it is also important that as Parents/Carers you have your own emergency plan for your child. Every child needs to know how to get into their home in the event of a school closure and what to do if they are waiting for a bus and it fails to turn up.

HEADTEACHER Mrs Julia Polley

Richmond Road, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 5HY

E-mail: admin@wensleydaleschool.net | Telephone: 01969 622244 | Website: www.wensleydale.n-yorks.sch.uk



Over the last 2 years, I have not had to close the school due to bad weather; my aim is to stay open throughout, however I must also ensure the health and safety of both students and staff. Not only do I need to consider whether I have enough staff to cover classes, but also whether they can get home safely, as many live long distances from the school. In the event of a school closure, we will post a message on the school website and send a text message and email to all Parents/Carers. Please check your contact details are correct on Go4Schools and if any of your details have changed recently, please update them as soon as possible.

Lastly, we have made several new teacher appointments over the last few weeks and some of these staff will be joining us shortly. I have been very impressed by the quality of applicants and it means that we are able to stabilise and strengthen as a staff, which, in turn, will improve the outcomes for your child.

As always, if you have any concerns or comments about any of the points raised in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Polley
Headteacher