



pathfield
SCHOOL

Inspiring interaction

How We Deal with Critical Incidents

Updated: February 2022

All Schools are expected to have a plan to deal with critical incidents and emergencies.

Here at Pathfield, we have a School Emergency Plan which can be invoked if one of a range of potential incidents occur, including:

- serious injury to a pupil or member of staff (e.g. transport accident)
- significant damage to school property (e.g. fire)
- criminal activity (e.g. bomb threat)
- severe weather (e.g. flooding)
- public health incidents (e.g. flu pandemic)
- the effects of a disaster in the local community

The plan covers procedures for incidents occurring during and outside school hours, including weekends and holidays. We also include procedures for extended services such as after-school clubs, PAC and Siblings as well as trips.

What do we do?

Our Emergency Plan has been developed by using risk assessments and looking at previous incidents that have occurred both here and in Education more widely. We have a range of responses depending on the incident which we use to deal with incidents; this may include involving the Devon County Council Emergency Planning Service.

The School's Emergency Management Team will co-ordinate all necessary actions to minimise further risk as a result of an emergency.

Specific members of staff have specific assigned responsibilities when dealing with incidents.

Incidents are reviewed so that we can learn and check that our response was effective.

Communication

We inform all affected people including pupils, parents/carers and staff as soon as possible. We use website, text and email to keep you informed.

- Please let us know if your contact details have changed so that we can still let you know of any relevant information.

Severe weather

During severe weather conditions, such as flooding or snow, we will keep the school open whenever possible. However, many of our pupils use school transport and sometimes this cannot run and although we may be able to get pupils to school there could be a risk that we might not be able to get them home again, safely. To keep pupils and staff safe we may decide to close temporarily due to inaccessibility or risk of injury. We will do all that we can to re-open as soon as possible.

Useful information

You may find the following links useful:

- Devon County Council School Closures website – you can sign up for free email alerts to let you know if the school is closed:
[School Closures Archive - Schools Information - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/school-closures)
- Check the School website where we will endeavour to put a message about school opening/closing:
[Pathfield School – Inspiring interaction](https://www.pathfield-school.co.uk)