

Peregian Beach College

Lockdown Policy

Purpose of the Policy

The Peregian Beach College is implementing this policy to ensure that students and staff are safe in situations where there is a hazard in the school grounds or outside the school that requires students and staff to be locked within buildings for their own safety.

Scope

This policy applies to employees, volunteers, parents/carers/students, and people visiting the school site. It covers the procedures and personnel responsibilities when the school is required to go into lockdown.

Responsibility

Principal

Point of Contact

Workplace Health & Safety Officer (WHSO)

Policy

The Peregian Beach College lockdown policy applies when students and staff need to be locked within buildings for their own safety. This will usually occur if there is a dangerous intruder on school grounds, but may also occur in some circumstances in the event of a hazardous situation such as a chemical spill or fire, which makes it dangerous for students, staff and visitors to be outside.

Copies of this policy will be disseminated via the school and staff handbooks and via notices in the library and other appropriate areas around the school.

The WHSO, or another member of school staff designated by the Principal, will schedule at least one practice lockdown drill per semester and will be responsible to ensure all staff members are clear about the procedure before the practice drill takes place.

Teachers will remind students of the lockdown procedure during the first lesson each semester.

Procedure

In the event of an emergency, the Principal will make the decision with regard to whether the campus needs to be locked-down.

If the decision is made to lockdown:

- A bell will be sounded in one continuous blast.

The public address system will be activated and the following announcement will be given by the WHSO:

Activate lockdown procedures immediately.

All students, staff, and registered guests please proceed to the nearest classroom.

Staff, secure your rooms and students.

Authorities have been notified and are enroute.

REPEAT:

Activate lockdown procedures immediately.

All students, staff, and registered guests please proceed to the nearest classroom.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this policy is to the best of our knowledge and belief correct at the date of publication. However, no warranty or guarantee is or can be given by Peregian Beach College or any member of its staff, and no liability is or can be accepted for any loss or damage resulting from any person relying on or using the information contained in this policy.

Lock-down procedures

1. In the event of a building lockdown, it is mandatory that all students and adults remain in the classroom. Students and adults who are in the hallway are to move into the closest occupied classroom;
2. Staff who are not teaching at the start of lockdown should go to the nearest classroom;
3. Staff, should check hallways for students and direct them to the nearest classroom, and invite in visitors not matching the intruder description;
4. Close blinds, if available;
5. Position students against the door wall in the most non-visible corner, seated;
6. Do **not** allow students to use the classroom phone (or their mobile phone) if there is one available;
7. Remind students and adults to remain quiet; and
8. Remain in this position until "all clear" is announced.

For Parents

Information about the school's lockdown procedures will be disseminated to all parents on the website, in the following form:

If a lockdown occurs, parents will be notified as soon as it is practical to do so. However, parents are requested **not** to come to the school, as students will not be released to parents during lockdown. Parents are also asked **not** to call the school as this may tie up emergency lines that must remain open. Parents should not expect their child to call them, **nor should they call student mobiles**, as the lockdown situation requires silence in order not to alert an intruder to the presence of students and staff in classrooms. If your child's stay at school is extended beyond the regular time, you will receive information about the time and place that you can pick up your child via email.

Please be assured in the event of lockdown that the only consideration for the school is the safety and well-being of your child.

Intruder Procedures

From time to time, staff may witness an intruder in the school grounds, or may need to confront someone who does not appear to have any legitimate reason for being on campus. In such a case, you should use the following procedure:

1. When confronting an intruder, take another staff member with you.
2. Ask a third staff member who is not involved to call the office.
3. Determine who will initiate contact with the intruder and who will be the back-up person. If possible, include a third staff member so that you can potentially form a triangle around the intruder. This will put you in a stronger defensive position.
4. Use a system of nonverbal communications or hand signals using just one hand. For example:
 - a. 1 finger = back-up staff member may leave
 - b. 2 fingers = back-up staff member should stay on the scene
 - c. 3 fingers = both staff members should break off contact and leave when safe to do so
 - d. fist = presence of a potential weapon. Both staff members should break off contact and leave when it is safe to do so.
5. Attempt to direct the intruder to the main office. Use casual conversation or body language to calmly direct the situation.
6. If the intruder refuses to cooperate, do not escalate the situation. Leave and notify the Principal.
7. If the intruder shows a weapon, assure him/her that it is not necessary for him/her to consider using the weapon:
 - a. Back away slowly and leave the area; and
 - b. Both of your hands should be up, with your palms facing the intruder while slowly backing away.
8. As soon as it is safe to do so, report the situation to the Principal.

Date of Policy

July 2023

Approved by

College Board

Review Date

Annually, in consultation with police



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