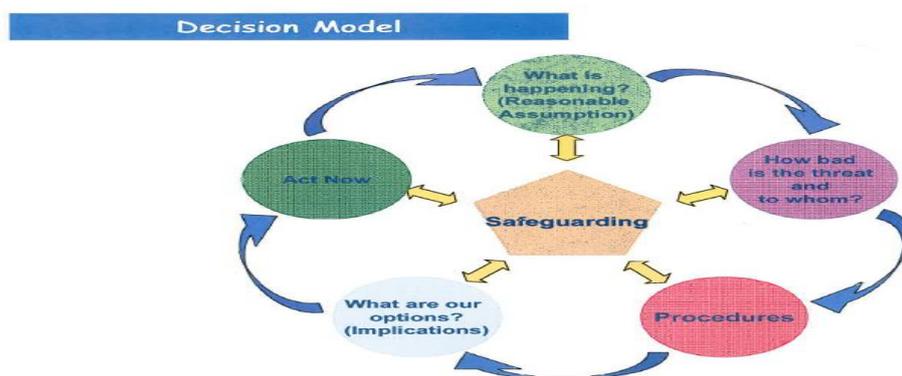


Developing Dynamic Lockdown Procedures for Acts of Spontaneous Aggression at Ark Helenswood Academy

Acts of spontaneous aggression are related to intruders accessing Helenswood's property and threatening students, staff or visitors with a weapon such as a knife or a gun. There is no one policy which fits any incident as each incident, and the response to the incident, are different. As an incident occurs our response changes dynamically. The decision model below is used by Sussex police when dealing with safeguarding issues. At each point of any incident, decisions need to be made. The situation is dynamic and ever changing, however, our first step is to ascertain "What is happening?" and then contact the police giving them as much information as possible.



Types of incidents and our initial response

Knife attack

There have been a number of high profile incidents recently where students have stabbed staff and students at schools. Sadly students and members of staff have been killed. There are a number of processes which need to be followed if a student or intruder threatens to stab or kill anyone. The first step is to ascertain what is happening and immediately contact the police. Do not tackle the person with the knife – even if you know them well [they are not acting like the person you know]. Stay out of reach of the person – at least 4 metres.

Gun Attack

Incidents of gun attacks in the UK have been few and far between. As with a knife attack, the first step is to ascertain what is happening and immediately contact the police. Do not tackle the person with the gun – even if you know them well [they are not acting like the person you know].

Dynamic response

The next step in dealing with an incident is dynamic. The police would advise that, where possible, the first action is to run away and hide. Where this is not possible all external doors, away from the incident, should be locked to bar access to the intruder. Lockdown must only be done where it is completely safe to do so. **Senior leaders must make a decision what is the safest course of action at the time of the incident.** The police state *"The main concern is dealing with the intruder and any casualties. When the incident has been resolved, accounting for those not involved, can take place."* The first response is to get all students and staff as far away from the incident as possible.

If students need to be locked in classrooms [last resort] they need to:

- Hide behind a brick wall where possible [bullets go through doors and plasterboard].
- Stay clear of all windows and draw blinds
- Remain quiet

Below is the government's recommendation which is in line with Sussex police advice.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/478003/NaCTS_O_Guidance_Note_1_-_2015_-_Dynamic_Lockdown_v1_0.pdf

Stay Safe

Firearms and weapons attack

“Stay Safe” principles (Run Hide Tell) give some simple actions to consider at an incident and the information that armed officers may need in the event of a firearms and weapons attack. Full guidance is contained on the Naxos website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recognising-the-terrorist-threat>

Run

- Escape if you can.
- Consider the safest options.
- Is there a safe route? RUN if not HIDE.
- Can you get there without exposing yourself to greater danger?
- Insist others leave with you.
- Leave belongings behind.

Hide

- If you can't RUN, HIDE.
- Find cover from gunfire.
- If you can see the attacker, they may be able to see you.
- Cover from view does not mean you are safe, bullets go through glass, brick, wood and metal.
- Find cover from gunfire e.g. substantial brickwork / heavy reinforced walls.
- Be aware of your exits.
- Try not to get trapped.
- Be quiet, silence your phone.
- Lock / barricade yourself in.
- Move away from the door.

Tell

Call 999 - What do the police need to know?

- Location - Where are the suspects?
- Direction - Where did you last see the suspects?
- Descriptions – Describe the attacker, numbers, features, clothing, weapons etc.

- Further information – Casualties, type of injury, building information, entrances, exits, hostages etc.
- Stop other people entering the building if it is safe to do so.

Armed Police Response

- Follow officers' instructions.
- Remain calm.
- Can you move to a safer area?
- Avoid sudden movements that may be considered a threat.
- Keep your hands in view.

Officers may

- Point guns at you.
- Treat you firmly.
- Question you.
- Be unable to distinguish you from the attacker.
- Officers will evacuate you when it is safe to do so.

You must STAY SAFE

- What are your plans if there were an incident?
- What are your exit routes – the normal fire exit route may be where the incident is. Are there any other exits you can use safely

Helenswood Staff should:

1. **Contact the Police** – If you witness an incident immediately telephone 999. The police would rather be contacted and it's a false alarm, rather than not at all. The police would rather have ten 999 calls rather than none.
2. **Informing SLT** - SLT should be contacted, by radio, immediately an incident occurs after the police have been contacted.
3. **Informing the staff** – SLT to inform staff where possible of the appropriate action to take.
4. **Run and hide** – If possible evacuate buildings and get as far away from the incident as possible
5. **Lockdown** – In the case of gun fire staff can make the decision they feel is the safest. For example, if the gun fire is loud/nearby then a lockdown is required, if it's in the distance run and hide is appropriate.
6. **PE lessons/break/lunch** – if an intruder is seen outside the students must return to the buildings which should be locked by SLT/Site team. Students must not enter the building[s] if the incident is inside.