



**Mabe**  
Primary School



# Security Policy

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Statutory or Best Practice Policy	Best Practice
School or Trust Policy	School

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## **Policy for Security Procedures**

At Mabe Primary School the pupils should work and learn in a safe and secure environment. Parents need to be confident that the school provides such an environment. Staff should feel that the LGB has done everything it can to make the school a safe place in which to work.

At Mabe Primary School we are acutely aware that the children and staff might be vulnerable to assault while on the premises. The personal safety of the whole school community is paramount; the Governors and staff take the threat of assault, arson and vandalism very seriously. Mabe Primary School takes stringent measures to reduce the risks and support fully members of staff or pupils who are the subject of assault. The Police are notified and legal action taken, if necessary.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

Overall school security is the responsibility of the employer. At Mabe Primary School this is the School's LGB, overseen by Kernow Learning Trust. The Headteacher is responsible for implementing the security policy.

### **Headteacher**

The Headteacher should ensure that standard procedures are in place to minimise risk and that all staff are fully aware of the security arrangements and of their own responsibilities, receiving such training as is necessary to fulfil those responsibilities. The Headteacher should ensure parents and older pupils are fully informed of the security policy and encouraged to help.

There are regular risk assessments of security every year and regular routine security checks. Advice is obtained from the Police on security matters and all crimes are reported to the Police. The Headteacher reports regularly to the LGB and Kernow Learning and, where appropriate, the LA.

The Headteacher is responsible for the security of the premises during the school day; in her absence the Assistant Headteachers assume this responsibility.

### **Staff**

Teaching and non-teaching staff should be fully cognisant of the security procedures and know how to:

- protect pupils from harm
- guard against assault
- safeguard property
- contact the police/emergency services
- implement the emergency procedures and critical incident plan.

New staff are informed of the school's security policy (key aspects linked with our safeguarding policy) and of their responsibilities before taking up their post.

## **Pupils**

As the children progress through the school, they are made increasingly aware of the security procedures. They should be encouraged to assist with these procedures when possible. Within the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum, the pupils will be taught about personal safety and social responsibilities. e.g. recognising visitors lanyards and badges

## **Parents**

The parents of pupils at Mabe Primary School are kept fully informed of security procedures, and of their responsibilities when visiting the school, in the:

- Website
- new Foundation Stage Parent's Evening discussion
- school newsletter
- individual letters
- Posts on Class Dojo

## **Police/Local Community**

Our School values co-operation from the local police and community in assisting security arrangements for the school site and the surrounding area. The School communicates with the local community/liaison Officer on security matters and the headteacher has links with other organisations who meet in the local community . Local residents are encouraged to report incidents directly to the police.

**The Police are called immediately if there is an incident of a violent, aggressive or abusive nature. The Police should be called immediately when a child goes missing, for example after school. Do not wait until a search has taken place.**

Local schools are informed on current matters of concern, for example if a stranger is spotted loitering outside the school.

## **Security Strategies Control of Access**

Mabe Primary School has a policy of welcoming visitors; however, we realise that problems can occur with angry parents, disaffected young people, criminal trespass or even child abduction or assault. To minimise the risk to the school community, especially the children, we have introduced procedures to limit access to the school site.

## **School Grounds**

All children enter the school grounds via the pedestrian school gates. During the school day, the internal gates are locked and the front gate closed for visitors and late arrivals.

All parents are asked to wait outside the designated entrances / classroom doors when delivering their children unless appointments or special arrangements have been made. If a stranger is seen on the school grounds, a member of staff should establish his or her identity and the reason for

the visit. If the reason is not legitimate, the stranger should be asked to leave.

### **Access to the School Building(s)**

To prevent unauthorised or unknown visitors entering school, security locks are fitted to all external doors (excluding the fire doors, which open only from the inside) the main Reception Area door is opened by a buzzer from the office or a member of staff if they recognise a visitor.

All office doors should be locked when not in use and all external doors closed at the end of break times.

All visitors to the school should report to the Reception front office area, which is clearly marked. In the first instance, a member of the school admin team will meet visitors; they will be asked to sign in, read and sign our visitor information and give the reason for their visit.

The admin team member escorts visitors to the member of staff requested – or asks visitors to take a seat whilst a member of staff is contacted. The member of staff then comes to collect the visitor.

All visitors are expected to wear a badge with the correct coloured lanyard before they are allowed into the main part of the school.

No visitor is given unrestricted access to the school; this includes parents. All children and staff are alert to unrecognised adults in school. Children should report strangers to the nearest member of staff. If a stranger is noticed in school, staff should establish his or her identity and reason for the visit.

If, at any time, an unsatisfactory reason is given, or proof of identity cannot be produced then the member of staff concerned should ask for assistance from the nearest colleague. The unauthorised person is asked to leave and escorted from the premises, as they are committing a trespass. If that person refuses, becomes aggressive or damages property, no attempt should be made by staff to eject the intruder and the police should be called immediately.

Parents/ Carers have permission to enter the school premises however, they should act as any other visitor to the school, complying with the appropriate school arrangements. They should not roam at will around the school, enter classrooms or interfere with members of staff carrying out their professional duties.

If parents/carers wish to take their child/children out of school during the school day, they should report to the Reception area. A request to take a child out of school should normally be made in advance in writing on form requesting leave of absence.

## **Trespass**

Mabe Primary School is not a public place to which any member of the public is entitled to have access. Any person who enters without permission is a trespasser; trespassers are asked to leave. Trespass is not a criminal offence; however, if a trespasser refuses to leave the school premises, causes a disturbance or enters after being requested to leave, such behaviour could constitute a criminal offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1996.

If a parent/carer is causing a disturbance, becoming abusive or violent towards a pupil, member of staff or another parent, the Headteacher might revoke the parent's/ carers permission to be on the premises by taking the following action.

- The parent/carer can be asked to leave and will be told 'I am revoking (withdrawing) your permission to be on the school premises'.
- If the parent /carer still refuses to leave willingly, the Police are called.
- A formal letter from the Headteacher/Trust or LGB, confirming the parent's/carers permission to visit the school has been revoked and that there is a five-day period in which to make representation. Formal notification is important, as their human rights are being affected.

Extra information can be obtained from the LA Personnel Handbook.

**The police should be called immediately if there is an incident that is causing concern of an aggressive, abusive or violent nature.**

## **Entering and Leaving School**

All children enter and leave the school by the designated entrances or classroom doors. The front door is to be used only if a child arrives after 9.00am, when they should report (that they are late) to the office. Some children may have special arrangements in place to use the front door. All parents are asked to wait in our secure Reception area where there is supervision in place from the school secretary.

## **Supervision of School Grounds**

Children are not supervised before the start of the school day or after it, on the school site. During these times they are under the supervision of their parents/carers.

Children are supervised at all other times when in the playground(s). Supervision is by teachers and support staff at morning break (+ afternoon break FS/ KS1) and by the Midday Supervisors at lunchtime.

## **Leaving School at the End of the Day**

At the end of the school day, the children leave by the designated exit or classroom door. All of them know that if the adult who should collect them has not arrived, they should come straight back into the building and stay with their teacher. After ten minutes, if no one has arrived, the teacher takes

the child to the office and a member of the admin team telephones to see what the delay might be. The child stays in the front entrance until an authorised adult arrives. No child is allowed to leave unless we are sure they are safe.

Some children go home by taxi. All taxi drivers report to the office on arrival, show their identification and state the name of the child they are collecting. Children who travel home by taxi wait in the front School office entrance area.

### **Leaving School During the Day**

No child is allowed out of school for an appointment during the day, unless a known adult arrives to collect him or her and reports to the office first. Prior notice should be given to the school with proof of an appointment.

### **Security of Personal Property**

Children should not bring anything of value to school. Individual staff are responsible for their own property.

### **Security of Equipment and Cash**

Main items of school equipment, for example computers, TVs, videos, are security marked. The school utilises the Parent Pay system which has minimised the need for any cash to be sent into school by parents. Any petty cash on the premises is kept in a secure cabinet but money is banked regularly.

### **Security of Building**

An effective intruder alarm is in operation. This is always set when the school is empty.

CCTV signage and large warning signs have been placed on the outside of the school building. Security lighting has been installed.

It is the responsibility of the class teacher to make sure that their classroom is secure, the windows closed and equipment switched off, before leaving the premises.

The Headteacher, Caretaker, Cleaner and some teachers are designated key holders and are responsible for the security of the building.

### **Estates Manager**

It is the responsibility of the Estates Manager to check that all locks and catches are in working order, that the emergency lighting is working, that the fire alarm has no faults, and that the security system are working properly.

Before leaving the premises, the nominated Keyholder has a duty to ensure that all the windows are closed, that the doors are locked and secure, that the security alarm is set and that all gates are locked.

## **Contractors in School**

When contractors are working in School, the following precautions should be taken:

The Headteacher agrees a convenient time for the work to be completed – out of school time if possible – and school staff should be made aware of the work taking place and of any Health and Safety issues. The Estates Manager should check regularly that the work is being carried out safely.

Contractors should report to the reception area on arrival and before leaving, signing in and out. When on the school site, badges, identifying the company for which they work, should be worn at all times. Contractors should complete maintenance logs, when appropriate.

Contractors should take extreme care with building materials, ladders, tools and any other equipment. Health and Safety standards should be observed throughout the period of the contract. On completion of the contract, any relevant documentation should be obtained, for example electrical test certificates.

## **Access Outside School Hours**

On occasion, staff, pupils or contractors require access to the school out of normal school hours, in the evenings or at weekends and in the holidays. Our School is aware that some staff are working on the premises before and after school and their security has to be safeguarded.

No person should be in the school on their own, if at all possible. If this is unavoidable, all the doors should be locked and the staff member should have access to a (mobile) phone and be familiar with the schools' Lone Working Policy.

Curtains and blinds should always be closed in the evening, but especially if staff are working late. When the Hall is used for evening lettings, students should have access to this area only; the remainder of the building should be locked.

## **Fire Detection Systems**

At Mabe Primary School we acknowledge that one of the most serious threats is arson and to reduce the risk, we take the following precautions.

Fire detection and alarm systems are in place throughout the school and tested regularly.

Fire drills take place each term. All fire exits are kept clear at all times and neither left open, or locked from the inside.

The school grounds are kept clear of litter and movable objects that could be used to start a fire. The school refuse bins are placed to prevent intruders or pupils using them to start fires or as a means of access to the roof.

## **Offensive Weapons**

It is a criminal offence to carry an offensive weapon or knife onto the site. Offensive weapons are defined as ‘any article made or adapted for causing injury to the person or intended by the person having it with him for such use by him or some other person.’

If it is judged that the circumstances are innocent, the matter is dealt with on a disciplinary basis. If there is any doubt, the police are summoned and they assess the seriousness of the incident.

Staff are under no obligation to search a pupil whom they suspect is carrying an offensive weapon. If the child agrees to co-operate, a search might be the least inflammatory way to prevent violence. When a child refuses to co-operate, only the police can carry out the search. At Mabe Primary School we will make every effort to ensure a parent or guardian is notified as soon as possible, so they can be present during the search and subsequent investigation.

When the person suspected of carrying an offensive weapon is not a pupil at the school, or an incident occurs off the school premises, the police are informed and they carry out the search and an appropriate investigation.

## **Confiscation of Weapons**

Staff take possession of a knife or any weapon brought to school by a pupil. The staff authorised to do this are the Headteacher and Assistant Headteachers.

The item is locked away; staff should either:

- Arrange for the parent or guardian to take the weapon away, if circumstances indicate this to be a reasonable course of action.
- However, in no circumstances should some weapons – e.g. flick knives and knuckle-dusters – be returned.

When weapons are returned to parents/carers, a record should be kept

**Or**

Arrange to surrender the weapon to the police without delay and inform parents of any police involvement.

## **Critical Incident**

If the security of the school is breached, leading to a critical incident (for example, a pupil or member of staff being attacked), the **Critical Incident Policy** is implemented with staff and Governors responding to the procedures.

## **Reporting Incidents**

All incidents of crime and losses are recorded in the Incident File, including information on the date, time, location, cost, staff, parents involved, action taken, and so forth. The Police and LA are notified.



A review of incidents over the year is distributed to the Governors.

### **Review of Policy and Procedures**

The Local Governing Body reviews this policy every two years or earlier if deemed necessary.

### **Further Information**

#### **Useful documentation and Resources**

DfES School Security – Report of working group 06/97

DfES/Home Office School Security; Dealing with Troublemakers 1997

DfES Governors' Annual Reports in Primary Schools 7/99

DfES The Human Rights Act and Your School 0194/2000

HDA Violence at Work 2/97

HSE Violence to Staff in the Education Sector 1990

HSE Contractors in Schools

NAHT Managing Security in Schools – series of five books 2000

NAS/UWT School Security

SHA Managing Security in Schools and Colleges

The Stationery Office Managing School Facilities – A guide to Improving School Security C/300 9/96

[www.dfes.gov.uk/security](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/security) Offensive weapons/trespassers