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**THE HART  
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RSA / MEL

2 December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

### **RE: Enhancing safety in our school**

The safety of our students and staff at The Hart School is of paramount importance. Our emergency procedures in school help ensure that students are kept safe during their time here. Therefore, I am writing to inform you of the steps we will take in the unlikely event of an invacuation. As a school community, we will be practising this procedure on **Friday 6 December 2024 at 1.20 pm.**

### **What is an invacuation and when would we carry it out?**

An invacuation procedure is a standard health and safety precaution similar to a fire drill. Our invacuation procedure would be used when there is a threat to the safety of students, staff and others in the school and when it is safer for everyone to remain on site rather than evacuate.

The aim is to keep people safe by confining them in a secure place of safety. Situations where our lockdown procedure may be used include:

- A potentially dangerous person or animal on the school site
- A dangerous situation in the local community that could affect the school
- A nearby chemical incident or other risk of air pollution
- An incident related to terrorism



## **Our procedure**

Our invacuation procedure is as follows:

- Students will be alerted to an invacuation by the invacuation alert. This is continual alert on the school bell system stating that an invacuation has been initiated.
- If students are already in a lesson, then they remain in the room.
- If students are between lessons or it is break-time, students should move directly to the nearest room.
- Classroom doors will be locked from the inside and students moved away from windows and doors.
- Blinds to exterior windows will be drawn where applicable.
- Mobile phones should be switched off.
- Students will be encouraged to keep silent, remain calm and to avoid using mobile phones.
- The emergency services will be called (in the event of a real event).

## **Instructions for parents in the event of an invacuation.**

- Parents will be informed if the school goes into an invacuation by text message and notification via Arbor.
- Parents should not attempt to call or come to the school, as this may hinder the school's effort to contact and work with the emergency services.
- Parents should not discuss the event on social media, as this may spread false information and create panic.
- Students will be instructed not to use mobile phones during an invacuation, so parents should not be alarmed if your child does not answer their phone.

Prior to our drill, staff will take time to talk to students about invacuation procedures and explain why they are important. They will reassure pupils after the drill that they are safe and will emphasise that practising procedures like this will make sure the school remains a safe place to learn.

I must stress again this is simply a practice, so that in the event of such a situation, our students and staff are fully prepared.

Yours sincerely

**Miss R. Sandham**  
Principal