

## RCCS FAQs: “Safe Mode”

### **What is “safe mode”?**

“Safe mode” is the situation when staff and pupils remain safely inside the school in classrooms until further notice. If they are outside they are told to go back into classrooms

### **Who takes the decision to proceed to safe mode?**

This is the responsibility of the Head Teacher, who will of course consult with others prior to making a decision. In his absence the most senior member of staff present will decide.



### **Why would this decision be taken**

There are several reasons why a school would feel it appropriate to do this. Basically it's anything which might affect the safety of the pupils, ranging from icy pavements to intruders on site.

### **Is this the same as the old “Lockdown”?**

Effectively, yes. We used to use the phrase “lockdown” but this was a rather emotive term. The procedures are the same, but we hope the phrase “safe mode” is less likely to cause unnecessary panic.

twitter



### **How will you let parents know what's going on?**

We're aware this has the potential to alarm people, so we'll get something on twitter and the website as soon as we can, but the priority is safety. Nowadays pupils will be texting and tweeting themselves, and this can start off rumours and fanciful stories can soon spread. This is the downside of modern communications technology unfortunately. We will always ensure any safe mode procedure we have taken is clarified with parents as soon as possible after the event.

### **What happens next?**

Once we have everybody safe we conduct a risk assessment and further action is taken based on this. It may result in changes to dismissal processes, for example. In many cases we would contact the police. We will use our website and twitter if we need to inform parents, as stated above.

### **Why don't all other schools have these procedures in place?**

They should do!