



CATALYST

Somers Heath

Foyle Drive, South Ockendon, Essex RM15 5LX
Telephone: 01708 853397 E-mail: admin.shps@catrust.org.uk

Martyn's Law – School Impact

13th November 2025

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am writing in response to parental communication about recent changes and alteration to the way we organise certain events and activities. These changes are being made to assist in the transition to a Government Bill passed in April 2025.

The following fact sheet aims to add clarity on recent changes in school. *Martyn's Law* (also known as the **Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill**) — including how it relates to **evacuation** and **invacuation** (lockdown) procedures.

Martyn's Law (Protect Duty) – School Fact Sheet

What is Martyn's Law?

Martyn's Law (named after Martyn Hett, who was killed in the 2017 Manchester Arena attack) aims to improve public safety by requiring those responsible for certain premises — **including schools** — to **plan for and protect against terrorist attacks**.

The law is designed to **reduce harm** and **save lives** through better preparedness, training, and procedures.

Why It Matters for Schools

Schools are **public spaces** that may host large gatherings (e.g., assemblies, parents' evenings, performances). Under Martyn's Law, schools will be expected to:

- **Assess the risk** of a terrorist attack.
- **Plan and train** for emergency responses.
- **Have clear evacuation** – Leaving the premises to safety.
- **and invacuation (lockdown) procedures** – Providing safe spaces in the building.
- **Raise awareness** among staff and, where appropriate, pupils.

Key Responsibilities for Schools

Area	What Schools Should Do
Risk Assessment	Identify potential threats, vulnerable areas (entrances, gates, assembly halls).
Emergency Plan	Update your emergency plan to include terrorist threats. Ensure all staff know their roles.
Training	Provide counter-terrorism awareness (e.g., ACT Awareness e-learning).
Communication	Establish clear communication routes for staff and emergency services.
Practice Drills	Regularly assess evacuation and invacuation/lockdown procedures.



Evacuation Procedure (Get Out)

Use when it is **safer to move away** from the danger.

- Use known, safe exit routes.
- Take pupils to pre-identified **assembly or safe locations** (including visitors)
- Leave belongings behind.
- Do not re-enter until declared safe by authorities.

Example triggers: suspicious package, external threat nearby, fire, or structural danger.

Invacuation / Lockdown Procedure (Stay In)

Use when it is **safer to stay inside** than to evacuate.

- Bring everyone indoors quickly and lock doors/windows.
- Move everyone away from sightlines (e.g., windows, doors).
- Turn off lights, remain quiet, and await instructions.
- Maintain communication with staff and emergency services.

Example triggers: nearby armed threat, suspicious person on site, or incident outside the school.

Quick Checklist for Schools

- Reviewed emergency plans for terrorism-related incidents.
 - Conducted risk assessment.
 - Staff completed ACT Awareness training.
 - Clear communication tree in place
 - Practiced evacuation and invacuation drills.
 - **Updated visitor management and access control policies (for all activities, assemblies, pupil consultation, and sports events where visitors are present).**
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We appreciate your understanding whilst we work through all procedures most of which will involve risk assessing events and limiting numbers to certain events so that both evacuation and invacuation to a safe space within the building can be conducted safely with all onsite.

These changes are to ensure the safety of you and your child and that we are fully compliant when the Bill comes into force fully.

Your child may have already mentioned evacuation and invacuation practice happening in school and we appreciate your support reinforcing that they must always follow staff instruction quickly and calmly. Finally, we understand that you may find the content of this letter distressing but please be assured that the safety of your child is and always will be our priority.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Curtis
Head of School

