

Martyn's Law and Physical Security in Schools

October 2026



Welcome

What School Leaders Need to Know and Do

By the end of this session, you will know:

- Whether Martyn's Law affects your school
- What the law requires
- What actions you should be taking now
- Where to access support and guidance
- How Martyn's Law links to HCC's new Physical Security Guidance for Schools



Reminder: What is Martyn's Law?

- Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025.
- Introduced following the Manchester Arena attack.
- Requires organisations to consider response to a terrorist attack
- The Act received Royal Assent in April 2025, and has an implementation period of at least 24 months from then



Does it affect your school?

Most Hampshire Schools will be in scope

- Provided they can reasonably expect 200 or more people to be present at the same time.

If fewer than 200 people are normally present?

- Likely to be outside the scope of the legislation.
- DfE still recommends having preparedness arrangements in place.



Schools = Standard Tier

Unlike most public venues:

-  Schools remain in the Standard Tier
-  Even if more than 800 people are present
-  Enhanced requirements do not apply
-  School events are not automatically brought into Enhanced Tier because they are being held on school premises

This significantly reduces the burden on schools.



What this means for schools

- ✓ Plans
- ✓ Procedures
- ✓ Staff Awareness
- ✓ Testing - briefings, tabletop exercises, lockdown practice etc.
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Site Security Review

The focus is people and procedures rather than physical security measures. 

How it all fits together



Four key protective procedures

Schools within scope must have procedures covering:

- **Evacuation** - getting people away from danger.
- **Invacuation** - moving people to safer locations on site.
- **Lockdown** - securing the premises.
- **Communication** - providing information and instructions.

These are the core requirements of the legislation.



Scenario

12:30pm - Lunchtime

 Police are responding to an individual carrying a weapon approximately 200m from the school entrance

Ask yourself:

- What do we know?
- What is the risk?
- How do we communicate?
- Which procedure applies?



Evacuation



Invacuation



Lockdown



Communication



Using Existing School Procedures

For most schools, Martyn's Law is not about creating new plans. It is about reviewing and strengthening existing arrangements:

Existing Procedure	Martyn's Law Connection
Evacuation	Moving people away from danger
Invacuation	Moving people to safer locations
Lockdown	Restricting access and movement
Communications	Alerting and informing people
Critical Incident Plan	Roles, command and recovery
Security Policy and Risk Assessment	Physical security and preparedness

HCC Physical Security Guidance for Schools

Why does it exist?

To help schools:

- ✓ Review site security risks
- ✓ Strengthen visitor and access arrangements
- ✓ Review perimeter security
- ✓ Consider CCTV, alarms and lighting proportionately
- ✓ Improve incident reporting and escalation
- ✓ Meet DfE expectations for school security
- ✓ Understand and report security incidents and near misses through the H&S reporting system
- ✓ Supports compliance with Martyn's Law



How prepared is your school?

Ask yourself:

- ✓ Do staff understand lockdown and are pupils familiar with age-appropriate expectations?
- ✓ Do staff understand invacuation and are pupils familiar with age-appropriate expectations?
- ✓ Can we communicate quickly?
- ✓ Are roles clear?
- ✓ Have we tested procedures?
- ✓ Are new staff briefed?
- ✓ Are governors assured?
- ✓ Have we completed a security risk assessment?
- ✓ Is our security policy up to date?

If the answer is "yes" to all of these, you are likely to be in a strong position



Run Hide Tell

Schools should understand how these principles align with lockdown, invacuation and emergency response arrangements (relative to their pupil age range).



Run to a place of safety. This is a far better option than to surrender or negotiate. If there's nowhere to go then...



Remember to turn your phone to silent and turn off vibrate. Barricade yourself in if you can. Then finally...



Tell the police by calling 999 when it is safe to do so.



What schools don't need to do

You do not need to:

- ✗ Employ consultants
- ✗ Buy specialist software
- ✗ Buy a compliance package
- ✗ Install metal detectors
- ✗ Employ security guards
- ✗ Create a fortress school

Schools are not expected to install new security infrastructure purely because of Martyn's Law. Any physical security measures should be based on local risk assessment and DfE/HCC security guidance.

For most schools, compliance will come through reviewing and strengthening existing arrangements rather than significant new expenditure.



What now?

Leadership Team – lead the implementation

- Review emergency plans, lockdown arrangements and communication plans
- Review school security arrangements and complete/update a security risk assessment
- Review or develop a school security policy
- Consider exercising the plans via a tabletop exercise

Staff – understand and follow procedures

- Brief staff
- Include new starters

Governors – seek assurance

- Monitor Martyn's Law preparedness
- Seek assurance regarding security arrangements and emergency planning



Governor Assurance

What should governors seek assurance on?

- ✓ Procedures exist
- ✓ Staff briefed
- ✓ Exercises completed
- ✓ Lessons identified
- ✓ Security Risk Assessment reviewed
- ✓ Security Policy in place
- ✓ Annual review scheduled



How will we demonstrate compliance?

Evidence	Completed?
Four procedures documented (Evac/Invac/Lockdown/Comms)	☐
Staff briefed (incl. new starters)	☐
Exercise completed	☐
Lessons learned recorded	☐
Annual review scheduled	☐
Governors Assured (by seeing evidence of the above)	☐
Security Risk Assessment reviewed	☐
Security Policy reviewed and approved	☐

Schools should periodically review and exercise arrangements, and after any significant change to the site or operating model.



Further Information and Support

- **Department for Education** - [Protective Security and Preparedness Guidance for Education Settings](#)
- **Department for Education** - [Emergency planning and response for education, childcare and children's social care settings](#)
- **Department for Education** – [School and College Security](#) (Guidance, templates and checklists)
- **ProtectUK** - [Free guidance, resources, infographics, myth busters](#)
- **ACT for Education** - [Free online training developed with DfE and NaCTSO](#)
- **Security Industry Authority (SIA)** - [Future regulator for Martyn's Law compliance](#)
- **Local Authority** - use your existing networks – peers, HIAS, Health & Safety, safeguarding and emergency planning networks



Home Office

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025: Prepare to Protect

Top Tips on getting ready for Martyn's Law

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025: Prepare to Protect

Top Tips on getting ready for Martyn's Law

Department for Education

Evacuation Template

If the threat is within the venue (eg fire, gas leak, structural failure etc) but not bomb alerts (see Bomb Alert template) the responsible person should consider evacuation, but if the threat or incident is outside the venue it may be safer to stay inside.

Alarm or signal

Signal for whole building evacuation

Signal for stand down / all-clear

Incident Control Officers & Response Team

Role	Name	Emergency Contact Number
Incident Control Officer		
Deputies		
Communications Officer		

Other useful contacts:

Role	Name	Emergency Contact Number

Information for emergency services

Include a map and information such as location of gas shut off valves, storage of on-site chemicals

Assembly points

1.

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Lockdown Template

There are important differences between the lockdown and shelter arrangements. Lockdown is necessary when children and staff need to be **locked** within buildings for their own safety i.e. in an emergency situation such as a hostile intruder, terrorist attack or other criminal activity.

Signals

Alarm or signal for lockdown shelter	[insert]
Signal for stand down / all-clear	[insert]

Incident Control Officers & Response Team

Role	Name	Emergency Contact Number
Incident Control Officer		
Deputies		
Communications Officer		

It is important to remember that it is very much **the exception** to evacuate a building in the event of a hostile intruder. Unless the location of the intruders is known, a "blind" evacuation putting people in more danger (e.g. from an intruder or device at one of the entrances) than they had remained within the building.

Rooms most suitable for lockdown
1 Classrooms
2 Hall
3 Sports hall
4 Offices

It is important to make sure that items that could be used as weapons (kitchen equipment, tools, cleaning products) are securely locked away when not in use.

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Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025: Martyn's Law myth buster

MYTH 1
Businesses and organisations need to comply with the Act immediately

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Shelter (Invacuation) Template

Signals

Alarm or signal to seek shelter
Signal for stand down / all-clear

Incident Control Officers & Response Team

Role	Name	Emergency Contact Number
Incident Control Officer		
Deputies		
Communications Officer		

Action Plan

Determine whether to evacuate or invacuate
If invacuate, where will you instruct staff and students to go?
Ensure all students and staff are inside the school/college
If appropriate, move students away from the incident (e.g. to the other side of the building)
Do you need the emergency services?
If sheltering from an environmental hazard (e.g. a smoke or gas leak) ensure that any medical needs are prepared for in advance.

Completed by (Sign and time stamp)

What are your legal requirements under the Act?

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025

Children's Services

Key Takeaways

Does Martyn's Law affect my school?

- Probably yes if 200+ people are likely to be present.

How does it affect my school?

- Martyn's Law requires a focus on preparedness and procedures.
- Schools should review evacuation, invacuation, lockdown and communication procedures.
- Schools should also review wider security arrangements using HCC's Physical Security Guidance.

How do I demonstrate compliance?

- Review evacuation, invacuation, lockdown and communication arrangements; train staff; test procedures. Assure governors.

Where can I get help?

- DfE guidance, ProtectUK resources, ACT for Education, HCC, and your existing support networks.



Your Next 5 Actions

- ✓ Confirm if your school is likely to be in scope.
- ✓ Review lockdown, invacuation, evacuation and communication procedures.
- ✓ Complete or refresh your Security Risk Assessment.
- ✓ Brief staff and governors.
- ✓ Plan a tabletop or practical exercise during 2026/27.

Most schools can achieve compliance by strengthening existing arrangements rather than creating new Martyn's Law documentation.



One Question for Every School Leader

If a terrorist incident or major violent incident occurred on or near our site tomorrow, could every member of staff confidently explain what they would do?

If the answer is "not sure", that's where your Martyn's Law work should begin.



Thank you

