

Protect Duty – Response to Terrorist or Violent Attack

Protective Security and Preparedness

Martyn's Law Policy

These policies also apply to our Nursery Provision

Martyn's Law (The Protect Duty) Summary

1. What is Martyn's Law?

Martyn's Law is the informal name for the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, which received Royal Assent in April 2025. Its purpose is to ensure that public venues, including schools, are prepared to respond effectively to a terrorist or violent attack, thereby reducing the risk of harm to people on site.

2. Why it matters for schools and governors

Government policy has shifted from protecting only major or iconic venues to protecting people in everyday settings, including education. While there is no specific intelligence threat to schools, the Act reflects a recognition that good preparedness also strengthens safeguarding against other serious incidents, such as intruders or violent individuals.

For governors, Martyn's Law is primarily about:

- Strategic oversight
- Assurance of compliance
- Ensuring proportionate, sensible arrangements are in place

3. Which schools are in scope?

Education settings are in scope if it is reasonable to expect 200 or more people (pupils, staff, visitors) to be present at any one time.

Schools with fewer than 200 people are out of scope, but are encouraged to adopt good practice.

All schools, regardless of size, are treated as Standard Tier premises. Schools are exempt from the Enhanced Tier, even if they have more than 800 pupils, recognising existing safeguarding and security arrangements.

4. What are the Standard Tier requirements for schools?

There is no requirement for physical security measures such as barriers, scanners, or guards. Schools must instead have reasonably practicable, staff-led procedures covering:

- Evacuation – moving people safely off site
- Invacuation – bringing people into safer internal areas
- Lockdown – securing buildings and rooms
- Communication – clear and rapid communication with staff, pupils, and visitors in an emergency

These procedures must be documented, understood by staff, and capable of being implemented quickly. (Please refer to our lockdown Policy).

5. Governance and accountability

Each school must identify a Responsible Person (Sue Diffey). In governance terms, this will typically be the governing body, with operational responsibility delegated to the Principal in scope must notify and register with the regulator, which is the Security Industry Authority (SIA)

The SIA will provide guidance and has enforcement powers once the law comes into force.

6. Timescale and current position

- The Act is not yet in force
- There is an implementation period of at least 24 months following Royal Assent
- Formal statutory guidance from the Home Office, SIA, and Department for Education will be published before enforcement (expected no earlier than 2027)
- There is no legal requirement to comply yet, but schools are encouraged to prepare during the lead-in period.

7. What governors should be assured of now

Governors should seek assurance that:

- The school understands whether it is in scope
- Existing emergency, lockdown, and safeguarding procedures are being reviewed against Martyn's Law expectations
- Staff training and communication can be aligned without undue burden
- Preparation is proportionate and integrated, not a bolt-on or over-reaction
- Martyn's Law does not represent a shift towards high-security schooling; rather, it formalises good preparedness and reinforces existing safeguarding culture.

Appendix A

Martyn's Law (Protect Duty) – Protective Security and Preparedness Bedford Greenacre Independent School

1. Purpose

This appendix sets out how Bedford Greenacre School meets its responsibilities under Martyn's Law, formally known as the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, by ensuring proportionate preparedness to reduce **harm to pupils**, staff and visitors in the event of a terrorist or serious **violent incident**.

This appendix should be read in conjunction with the school's **Lockdown Policy, Safeguarding Policy, Health and Safety Policy, and Emergency Procedures**.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils
- All staff (teaching and non-teaching)
- Governors and proprietors
- Volunteers, contractors and visitors
- All areas of the school site and school-led activities on site

As an independent school, Bedford Greenacre School falls within the Standard Tier of Martyn's Law. The focus is on procedures, staff readiness and communication, not physical security measures.

3. Responsible Person

In line with Martyn's Law requirements, the school has nominated a Responsible Person with overall accountability for protective security and preparedness arrangements.

Responsible Person:

Sue Diffey – School Business Manager

The Responsible Person works on behalf of the Governing Body and is supported operationally by the Principal and Senior Leadership Team.

4. Core Protective Procedures

Bedford Greenacre School maintains clear, written procedures covering the four required response types under Martyn's Law:

1. Evacuation – safely moving people away from danger
2. Invacuation – bringing people into safer internal areas
3. Lockdown – securing rooms and restricting movement
4. Communication – ensuring clear, timely instructions during an incident

These procedures are detailed fully in the **Lockdown Policy** and associated emergency guidance and are designed to be:

- Proportionate
- Simple to follow
- Staff-led
- Appropriate for children and young people

5. Training and Awareness

The school is committed to ensuring that all stakeholders are familiar with and trained in the school's protective security procedures.

This includes:

- Induction training for all new staff
- Regular refreshers via safeguarding and INSET sessions
- Clear guidance for supply staff, contractors and volunteers
- Age-appropriate awareness for pupils where appropriate

Training focuses on staff confidence in immediate response, rather than theoretical understanding of terrorism risk.

6. Communication During an Incident

The school maintains systems to ensure that staff and pupils can receive clear, unambiguous instructions during an emergency.

These systems are:

- Regularly reviewed
- Tested where appropriate
- Designed to operate across different areas of the site and during different times of the school day

7. Pupils with SEND

Protective security arrangements take account of the needs of pupils with SEND, including:

- Individual support needs during evacuation, invacuation or lockdown
- Integration with existing Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs)
- Sensitive handling of any drills or awareness activity

8. Governance and Oversight

The Governing Body/Proprietor:

- Is aware of the school's duties under Martyn's Law
- Receives assurance that appropriate procedures and training are in place
- Ensures that this appendix is reviewed alongside **safeguarding and emergency policies**

9. Review

This appendix will be reviewed:

- Annually, or
- Following any significant incident, guidance update, or change to legislation

Approved by: Governing Body / Proprietor

Responsible Person: Sue Diffey, School Business Manager

Next Review: In line with **Lockdown Policy review cycle**