



Communicating with staff and students in emergency situations



Keeping your students safe

There are all sorts of emergencies that could occur during school time. Fortunately, while many occurrences are few and far between (e.g. intruder on the premises, local community disaster affecting the school), schools do need to have procedures in place to help them manage the security of their staff and students according to best practice.



What is a lockdown policy?

School lockdown policies have come under the spotlight in the wake of recent terror attacks in the UK and across the world. When invoked, lockdown policies involve creating a closed space where all external doors and windows are locked to make sure any situation can be contained, as well as prevent people from moving into areas where danger is present. Where appropriate, plans should be in place to bring pupils who are outside into the school buildings as quickly as possible – as well as alert staff to the activation of the lockdown. Lockdowns can be full or partial to contain threats in one part of the school, if necessary.



Is it compulsory to have a lockdown plan?

In the UK, there is currently no absolute requirement for schools to have a lockdown plan in place, but there are increasing calls for it to be made mandatory. At the moment, the Department for Education and Ofsted strongly encourage schools to have plans in place that encompass safeguarding and security as part of best practice.

How can NetSupport Notify help in a lockdown situation

Desktop notification and alerting tools such as NetSupport Notify can be a vital communication tool during a school's lockdown procedure – and some integrate it as an official part of their emergency plans. With its ability to send messages to Windows, Mac and Linux desktops and large information panels in halls and foyers, it delivers messages instantly. Alerts automatically take screen focus, meaning they can't be hidden or ignored. In addition, you can add sound to ensure attention is gained and ensure that messages are seen and acted upon as quickly as possible – which is crucial in an emergency situation.

What do schools say?

“NetSupport Notify is only installed on staff PCs, and it means that it's quick and easy to issue an alert that everyone can see at the same time... **it is an important tool in our emergency plan.**”

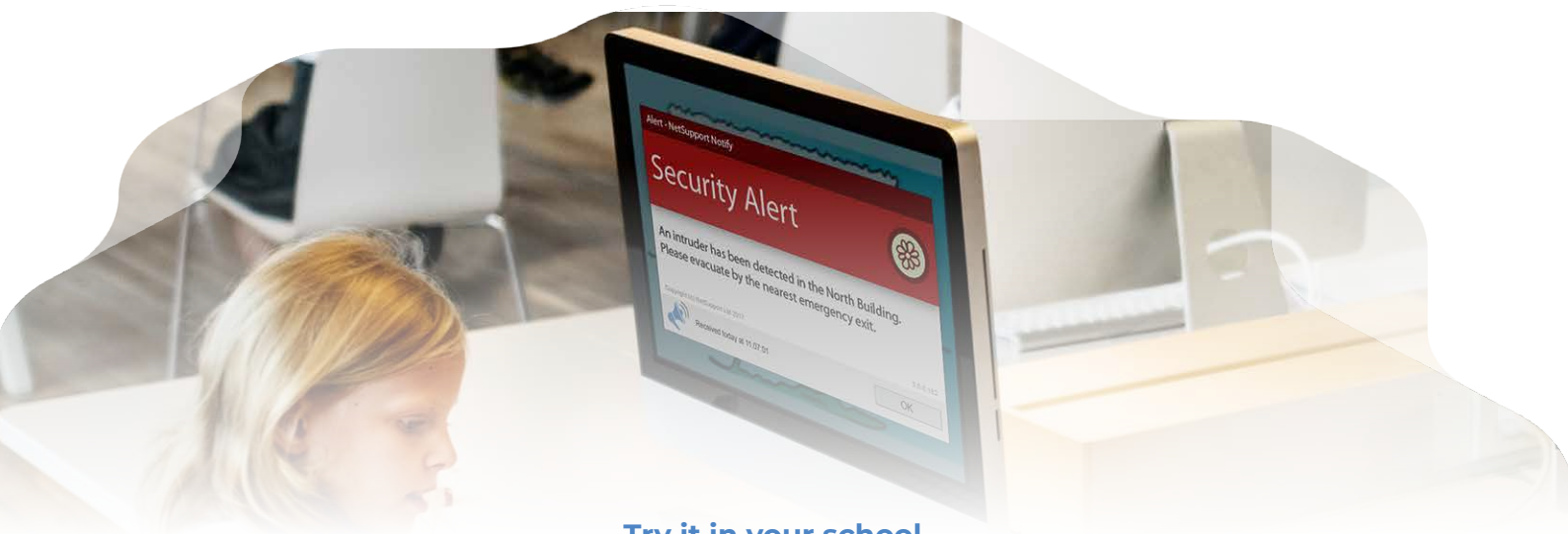
Cotham School, UK

“Internal messages often failed to get passed on and some staff even admitted that they never checked their email inbox. The first time we tried NetSupport Notify we knew it was the solution to our problems.”

Holmfirth Junior School, UK

“We use NetSupport Notify to provide immediate notification to staff, rather than through 'slower' email methods. It works very well in our environment.”

Binghamton University, USA



Try it in your school

Simply go to www.netsupportnotify.com to download a free 30-day trial and see how NetSupport Notify could fit in with your school's lockdown plan.