

Schools security calculator: Is your school high, medium or low risk?

Identifying security risks to your school
and the right countermeasures to put in place

The changing face of school security

Not so very long ago security in schools was mostly concerned with issues such as petty theft, vandalism and bullying. However, now and for many observers, these seem to be a few of the more mundane considerations of security in schools.

The murder of a teacher Philip Lawrence by a pupil in December 1995 was closely followed by The Dunblane school massacre in March 1996. Together, these incidents prompted the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE) as it was at the time to publish detailed guidance in Improving Security in Schools.

Dunblane, which brought about changes to firearms laws, was believed to be a statistical outlier, the one in a hundred years' event. For those concerned with safety in UK schools this was a landmark that changed our attitude to how the unthinkable might actually be possible.

Generally, it's difficult to make direct comparisons between the UK and the United States as the cultural differences around firearms ownership, polarised politics and racial tension make the US an altogether more risk-laden environment. The Columbine High School massacre in 1999 seemed to raise the bar on violence to a new level for the coming Millennium.

Since then, the face of school security has continued to change. In 2015, worrying statistical evidence of the scale of the threat to staff and pupils in the UK emerged, resulting in a parliamentary inquiry. In the three academic years to September 2015, research by the BBC uncovered that more than 5,500 sex crimes had been reported in schools.

In the three years to April 2014, Sky News revealed police had seized guns on 37 occasions, including two handguns. Statistically, incidences like these are relatively rare; however, they invariably attract the attention of Ofsted and the media.

Today, with the frequency of terror attacks in France, Belgium and Germany on the rise, there is a requirement for increased levels of vigilance across Europe and the world, in any place where people congregate. Being prepared for physical threats may be the highest item on the agenda; but there is more to it than just physical security.

The case of the London schoolgirls that fled to Syria to join Islamic State mean that in areas where the population demographic is weighted by ethnic and religious factors, there is a need for schools to play a role in detecting radicalisation. Along with sexting, trolling and cyber bullying, this makes digital security a matter of elevated importance.

In order to take control and manage the risks with the appropriate physical security countermeasures it is necessary for each school to understand the threat level. With this security risk calculator, we enable schools to determine the risk in each area and to see the recommended countermeasures for safeguarding pupils, protecting staff and visitors from external as well as internal threats.

What is my physical security risk?

A good way of determining the physical security risk is to score your school across a range of standard criteria and use the accumulated score to see the level of threat.

The table below lets you score each risk factor on a scale of 0 to 5. A lowest risk (0), and highest risk (5) example is given for each criterion.

Simply fill in the number for each factor as it applies to your school and total them in the boxes provided to calculate your risk.

| Part 1: Incidence of criminal activity in and around your school | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | LOW RISK | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | HIGH RISK |
| Trespass | Zero cases of trespassers in school grounds | | | | | | Trespassers commonly in school grounds |
| Vandalism | Zero cases of reported vandalism | | | | | | Frequent and costly vandalism of school buildings |
| Theft/ burglary | Zero cases of theft or burglary | | | | | | Frequent theft or burglary |
| Fire | Zero arson attacks in the locality | | | | | | Schools in locality have suffered from arson attacks |
| Attacks on staff or pupils | Zero attacks or threats reported | | | | | | Attacks inside school or in vicinity of school |
| Drugs/ solvent abuse | Zero problems reported | | | | | | School or locality problems with drugs or solvent abuse |

Total score for part 1:

Part 2: The environment and buildings of your school site

| | LOW RISK | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | HIGH RISK |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| Incidence of local crime | Locality has a low crime rate | | | | | | Locality has high crime rate as reported to police |
| School overlooked from roads and/ or housing | Grounds clearly visible to public | | | | | | Unobserved grounds |
| Boundaries, fences and gates | Boundaries well defined with fences and gates to grounds preventing all but determined intruders | | | | | | No fences or gates preventing unauthorised access |
| Clearly defined entrances | Clear entrances with signs directing visitors | | | | | | No clear entrances or multiple entrances |
| Well organised reception area and visitors control | Pass system in operation with badges issued to all visitors | | | | | | No system of recording visitors |
| Car parking | Car park(s) well-lit and overlooked | | | | | | No safe place to park, car parks unlit and not overlooked or surrounded by trees |
| Condition and appearance of buildings | Buildings well-kept and in good repair with no graffiti and not vandalised | | | | | | Buildings badly kept and in state of disrepair, graffiti covered and vandalised |
| Detached and temporary buildings | No buildings detached from main block | | | | | | Many detached buildings including temporary huts |
| Recesses and internal courtyards | No places for intruders to hide and break in unobserved | | | | | | Numerous places for intruders to hide and break in unobserved |
| Secure exit doors | Doors secure against all but most determined intruders | | | | | | Fire exit doors easily forced, inadequate locks |
| Secure windows and roof lights protected against burglars | Windows and roof lights protected against burglars | | | | | | Windows and roof lights provide easy access |
| Valuable equipment that is easily stolen and disposed of | Limited electrical equipment e.g. computers, televisions and DVD players | | | | | | Large volume of electrical items e.g. computers, televisions and DVD players |

| Part 2: The environment and buildings of your school site | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | LOW RISK | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | HIGH RISK |
| Fire precautions | Buildings have adequate fire compartments | | | | | | Large or inadequate fire compartments |
| Community ethos and support for school | Strong community and parent supports e.g. active PTA | | | | | | Insignificant parent or community involvement or negative attitudes |
| Out of hours use of school facilities | No reported problems and/or security benefit from out of hours use | | | | | | Many security problems due to out of hours use, special risks e.g. bars, social clubs |
| Clearly defined entrances | Clear entrances with signs directing visitors | | | | | | No clear entrances or multiple entrances |

Total score for part 2:

| Part 3: Your school's existing security measures | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | LOW RISK | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | HIGH RISK |
| Schoolwatch scheme | Efficient system of reporting suspicious incidents e.g. paging via satellite link | | | | | | No scheme in operation |
| Pupil involvement | Successful youth action group or school council | | | | | | No involvement in security |
| Waste bins | Waste and recycling bins locked up every night | | | | | | Unlocked mobile bins left around school |
| Security lighting | Lighting of all entrances, footpaths and building facades | | | | | | No lighting |
| Surveillance | Efficient surveillance e.g. CCTV covering perimeter or security patrols | | | | | | No system |
| Intruder alarms | System using passive infrared detectors in all ground floor perimeter and other vulnerable rooms | | | | | | No system |

| Part 3: Your school's existing security measures | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|-------------------------|
| | LOW RISK | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | HIGH RISK |
| Fire detection/sprinkler systems | Automatic system linked to fire brigade | | | | | | No automatic system |
| Property marking | All valuable property marked and stored securely | | | | | | No markings on property |
| Cash handling procedures | Secure methods in operation | | | | | | Lack of procedures |

Total score for part 3:

Total score for parts 1, 2 & 3:

Your risk is...

| Where does your score put your school on the risk spectrum? | | |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Total score <50 | Total score 51 - 100 | Total score >100 |
| LOW RISK | MEDIUM RISK | HIGH RISK |

What should I do?

| What security countermeasures should you consider based on your risk level? | | |
|---|--|--|
| LOW RISK | MEDIUM RISK | HIGH RISK |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors' access control • Limited number of entrances • Clearly defined boundaries and signs • Secure doors and windows • Out-of-hours access procedures • A fire alarm system • Additional fire compartments • Cash handling procedures • Buildings that are clear of materials that can be used for arson or vandalism • Control of contractors works • Pupil involvement • Parent and community involvement • Property marking and asset register • Security of computers • Intruder alarms in sensitive areas (e.g. head teacher's office, IT room) • Guidelines on what personal property pupils are allowed to bring to school LOW RISK | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the Low Risk countermeasures and... • Comprehensive intruder alarm system • Automatic fire detection • Security lighting • Precautions against damage to glazing • Secure storage areas and IT rooms • Security fencing • Car parking and vehicle security | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the Low and Medium Risk countermeasures and... • Personal attack alarms • CCTV • Shutters or grilles on windows and doors • Security guards or patrols • Sprinkler system to limit fire damage |

Next actions

Now you have a better understanding of the risk threat to your school you can make decisions appropriate to safeguarding pupils and protecting staff and visitors from physical security threats. There is also a need to make informed decisions when it comes to selecting appropriately qualified security firms to provide the expert help you are likely to require.

The security service provider you select should demonstrate all-around competency. Credentials should include qualified expertise and time served experience. This should be supported by a track record of delivering quality solutions, including case studies, testimonials and access to school referral sites where the supplier has delivered and currently maintains fully integrated systems.

Industry credentials such as National Security Inspectorate (NSI) Gold accreditation mean the provider has achieved the highest recognised standard of the national body which inspects firms that provide security systems across the UK. This level holds the greatest perceived value across industry and by the police, fire and rescue services and insurers.

All work needs to be carried out in full compliance with all applicable Health & Safety requirements, protecting installation engineers, your students, staff, visitors and members of the public.

Health & Safety is an important consideration for automated barriers and gates for access control. There is a risk of physical injury if they are not correctly installed and maintained. Consequently, any supplier should demonstrate the ability to meet the requirement for compliance with certain parts of a number of legislative instruments as well as relevant notices from the HSE.

SUMMARY

Help to get the right school security solution from iC2

iC2 is a leading mid-market security systems provider and was established in 2001. The business is owned and managed by a team with a collective experience of over 100 years in the electronic security business. iC2 holds CCTV and security accreditations with NSI and BSI.

We speak to people like you every day that have questions and require guidance on security in schools. We identify their needs and help them make important decisions about creating safer and more secure educational environments.

iC2 offers a complete physical security solution tailored to the needs of schools:

- Works extensively with school security, buildings and facilities management
- Identifies gaps in existing security arrangements
- Consults and offers impartial advice on all elements of CCTV and integrated security
- Specifies, supplies, installs, operates, monitors and fully supports all solutions
- Only provides high quality and appropriate CCTV and integrated security solutions
- Solutions meet all appropriate compliance requirements or follow guidelines
- Our specialist schools' ICT team is able to consult on network and digital security

A prestigious client list including luxury international boutique brands, top flight sporting venues, retail developments and educational and social environments demonstrates how solutions are deployed to meet a variety of requirements.

From deterring theft of high value luxury goods, to sports fan and public safety and child protection, solutions are deployed to meet a range legitimate purposes for which they are appropriate and fit for purpose.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Title: [Inquiry into sexual violence in schools](#)

Publisher: BBC website

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-36071502>

Title: [Schools departmental advice](#)

Publisher: GOV.UK website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/departmental-advice-schools#safeguarding-children-and-young-people>

Title: [Hold fire: Fire risk assessment Q&A](#)

Publisher: iC2 CCTV and Security Specialists (UK) Ltd

<http://www.ic2cctv.com/white-papers/hold-fire-fire-risk-assessment-qa/>

Title: [Q&A guide: CCTV code of practice and Data Protection Act compliance](#)

Publisher: iC2 CCTV and Security Specialists (UK) Ltd

<http://www.ic2cctv.com/white-papers/hold-fire-fire-risk-assessment-qa/>

Title: [5 ways to get locked up with electric gates](#)

Publisher: iC2 CCTV and Security Specialists (UK) Ltd

www.ic2cctv.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/iC2-5-ways-locked-guide.pdf



T: 020 3747 1800

E: info@ic2cctv.com

W: www.ic2cctv.com

About Us

Keeping you safe and secure at all times

iC2 provide you with innovative solutions tailored to you and your sector. We are London-based with a national team of surveyors and engineers that work closely with our clients throughout the UK and internationally.

Our unique consultative approach allows us to tailor bespoke systems to your individual requirements, ensuring that your operational requirements are met.

We appreciate the need to demonstrate the best value to you every time and as a technology-led company, you can expect our cutting-edge and ground-breaking approach to serve your needs for many years to come.

Please feel free to contact us to discuss any requirements you may have. We are happy to give you impartial advice, should you have any queries.

