

On December 7th of this year, as my daughter has described, Coventry Middle School had a lockdown. It was her first lockdown at this school as she transferred from a private school at the end of the first quarter.

I did not hear of this lockdown until Emma was on the bus and messaged me. Her text read "There was a lockdown drill today and it went on for so long I thought it was real bc there was no warning no teacher or student knew about it. Lea was crying and Vanetta. But since we were so good Mrs Rooney let us pick out a rubber duck each"

During these texts I began trying to contact the school but could not reach anyone. I had never heard of a lockdown drill where teachers and students were made unaware. I thought they had a communication failure. My husband also tried reaching the school by phone and email and also received no response. This is typical at the school. It is extremely rare to be able to get through to anyone.

Had our daughter text us on her watch we would have been in complete and utter horror and panic, as was Emma's classroom. Our daughter was never told about Alice protocol or anything about how lockdown drills were done at the school. She was intentionally traumatized. They made my daughter believe she would die.

On Friday I contacted the police station and was told on 2 different occasions on the same day that the principal or safety officer would call me. They did not call me until school got out Friday. They showed absolutely no concern for what my daughter and the rest of the class went through and insisted my daughter would have to go through it again.

The school was aware well before this lockdown that my daughter was a child who had experienced trauma more than once in her life. I was told no exception would be made.

I read on the Alice website about Trauma Informed approach as well as different ways to not retraumatize students that have already experienced trauma. It also talks about how everyone needs to know this is a drill. This is the exact opposite of what I was told on the phone by the principal and safety officer. In fact they told me my daughter was calm and collected. It seems both these individuals should be aware that each child handles anxiety differently, particularly in an education setting where their parents are not present.

I am certain there is a way to train faculty and students how to lockdown without traumatizing them. I am also certain that a child who has absolutely no knowledge of uninformed lockdown drills, should be subjected to them.