

[How Martyn's Law will affect education settings - GOV.UK](#)

1. What School Leaders Need to Know

Martyn's Law, formally known as the **Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act**, is new legislation intended to improve security and preparedness at public venues in the UK in case of a violent attack. It is named in honour of Martyn Hett, one of the victims of the 2017 Manchester Arena attack, and aims to embed **proportionate** security planning into the everyday practices and procedures at public venues.

2. Scope and Tiers

Martyn's Law applies to education settings where it is reasonable to expect **200 or more people to be present**. These settings fall under the Standard Tier.

Despite there being an Enhanced Tier for venues holding 800 or more people, early years, primary and secondary settings that are expected to host 200 people or more have a special consideration and will be in the **Standard Tier regardless of their overall capacity**.

Schools below 200 are out of scope but are encouraged to adopt [preparedness plans](#).

3. Responsibilities of School Leaders

All schools in scope must appoint a **Responsible Person**. In the case of schools, this will be the governing board.

4. Standard Tier Requirements

The school must:

- Notify the regulator if they are in scope. The regulator is the **Security Industry Authority (SIA)**: [Security Industry Authority](#)
- Put in place 'reasonably practicable' public protection procedures. There is no requirement for physical alterations to premises or the purchase of specific equipment

Focus should be on simple, low-cost, staff-led response protocols including for evacuation, invacuation, lockdown and communication in case of a violent attack.

Contact us

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5. Implementation Timeline

Settings will have **approximately 24 months** to prepare before the law is enforced. No exact date for enforcement has yet been published. During this period, bespoke guidance will be published by the Home Office, SIA, and Department for Education.

While schools may wish to begin considering the requirements immediately, there is no legal requirement to comply until the legislation comes into force.

6. Guidance and Support

The SIA will oversee compliance and provide tailored advice and guidance. They also have powers to investigate suspected non-compliance and, where appropriate, take enforcement action.

School leaders can access free resources to support implementation:

- Protective Security and Preparedness for Educational Settings: [Protective security and preparedness for education settings - GOV.UK](#)
- ACT for Education e-learning: Embeds a security-minded culture among staff: [ACT for Education | ProtectUK](#)
- ACT for Youth Toolkit: Teaches students aged 11–16 how to respond to threats (RUN, HIDE, TELL) [Act for Youth: RUN HIDE TELL | ProtectUK](#)
- ACT in a Box: Scenario-based exercises to rehearse incident responses: [ACT in a BOX Exercises | ProtectUK](#)

Additional guidance is also available from:

- ProtectUK: [ProtectUK | Home](#)
- The National Protective Security Authority (NPSA): [National Protective Security Authority | NPSA](#)
- The Department for Education:

For further support, contact: DFE.PROTECTANDPREPARE@education.gov.uk

We will communicate any further updates when they are available. In the meantime, if you have any questions do direct them to: GovernorServices@Oxfordshire.gov.uk.

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