



Parent's Guide To a Covid safe school

September 2021

DfE Rationale

The overarching objective is to maximise the number of children and young people in face-to face education or childcare and minimise any disruption, in a way that best manages the COVID-19 risk. The impacts of having missed face-to-face education during the pandemic are severe for children, young people and adults. In all cases, any benefits in managing transmission should be weighed against any educational drawbacks. Decision-makers should endeavour to keep any measures in education and childcare to the minimum number of settings or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible. Decision-makers should keep all measures under regular review and lift them as soon as the evidence supports doing so. Measures affecting education and childcare settings across an area should not be considered in isolation, but as part of a broader package of measures. Attendance restrictions should only ever be considered as a last resort. The Government will try to give as much notice as possible of any changes to the way settings should operate.

Assessing Risks.

For both pupils and members of staff we will need to balance a number of risks which include:

1. Any potential health risks to the individual with underlying health conditions
2. Social distancing
3. Hygiene processes
4. Cleaning regimes
5. Ventilation

Each section within this document will outline the way in which we move forward in these still uncertain times. Rates are rising, however with the national vaccination programme in place many people are now less affected by the virus than previously and less likely to suffer the most severe effects.

Health Risks

People considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable have been advised to follow all safety guidance as carefully as possible to minimise the risk of infection from Covid. Anyone living with someone carrying this status is expected to come in to work. School activities are judged as low risk as long as everyone is following the recommended advice. Risk assessments can be conducted with any staff who have concerns about their safety at work; they should speak to a member of SLT to access this.

Management of Covid is key to limiting it's impact. Measures in place include:

- a requirement that people who are ill should stay at home. PCR testing is recommended for anyone who is ill with any symptoms- not just the main 3 Covid symptoms, this is due to the changing presentation of emerging variants of the virus. Those with Covid symptoms must take a PCR test (or isolate for 10 days), anyone who is a contact of a positive case must look at the self-isolation guidance (outlined later).
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements- at least twice daily attention to frequently touched surfaces
- active engagement with local public health department for advice and guidance attention to social distancing, particularly in shared areas like staffrooms.
- regular lateral flow testing for all adults; staff and families
- appropriate self-isolation; anyone who has contact with a positive case should take a PCR test, for school aged children or adults who have had both vaccines more than 14 days ago. a negative result will mean an end to isolation.

Social Distancing

It is accepted that social distancing in schools like Broadmeadow is a challenge and cannot occur in classroom environments. However there is an expectation that adult's actively engage in social distancing in crowded areas, perhaps at break and lunchtimes in the staffroom. Whole staff gatherings are kept to a minimum in school but on those occasions social distancing will be expected.

Visitors to school will be greeted from behind the partition window.

Numbers in the school foyer will be kept under review, particularly at drop off and collection times.

Hygiene processes

Any individual entering the building should wash their hands (as per the guidance).

Good hand hygiene will be taught as part of the school day.

Any individual with symptoms must be isolated until they are able to depart and then get a Covid test, if positive they have to isolate for 10 days or until they feel well if this is longer.

Cleaning regimes

Cleaning and disinfecting any areas or surfaces will be undertaken by the cleaning team at the end of each school day and around midday . Additional cleaning materials will be supplied to each room in use in the form of Milton spray and disposable cloths- as far as is possible surfaces should be wiped frequently to avoid cross infection. Materials from cleaning should be placed in grey bags that can be sealed when full and placed into waste bins stored in the hygiene hub (art bay).

Class staff need to ensure that toys and chairs that have been used are wiped over with Milton at the end of each school day.

Office staff should be mindful of cross infection when answering telephones and greeting visitors.

What does this mean for our daily practises?

Pupils:

1. All pupils are expected to attend school, unless they are ill or having to self-isolate.
2. All pupils must wash their hands regularly throughout the day.
3. Any pupil displaying symptoms will be isolated in the medical room until parents are able to collect them. A test for the virus can then be arranged. Staff supporting any child in this situation must wear full PPE- mask, gloves, apron, visor.
4. Any pupil who has displayed symptoms (persistent cough, high temperature, loss of taste or smell) will be asked to take a Covid test need to remain at home for a minimum of 10 days if the result is positive. School nurse will provide advice if needed and the case reported to the appropriate bodies if a positive test result is received.
5. Classrooms will be ventilated by having at least one window open throughout the day.
6. Off-site visits can continue. All visits will be risk assessed. Staff must be careful about who children are exposed to and avoid any busy environments whilst on a visit. Outdoor visits are safest.
7. Staff should be mindful of social distancing in the hall when collecting lunches for children.
8. Staff will wear PPE provided for dealing with saliva or any other bodily fluids, toothbrushing should be carried out with caution.
9. Bus organisation will be managed by Boulton travel and children will travel in specific groups- this is just in case bubbles have to be re-introduced at any point during the year.
10. The lunchtime is split into 2 sessions as the school has grown; this will limit the number of children outside at any one time, however, there is no requirement to do this currently.
11. PPE is available for staff to use at any time should they require it. PPE is not necessary when working within a class bubble for most duties.
12. Part time rotas will be activated for pupils in the event of being unable to provide a safe staffing ratio due to illness/ absence from school due to self-isolation requirements However, with the new self-isolation guidance it is anticipated that this will be a rare occurrence..
13. Families will be encouraged to engage in lateral flow testing twice weekly in line with school staff. This can be administered in one of Wolverhampton's lateral flow testing community sites or in their home with testing kits which can be ordered for free from the NHS, or collected from local pharmacies. School communications have been sent out to explain this.

What will happen if rates continue to rise?

In the event that there is a spike in cases (defined as 5 positive results of people (staff or children) , who are in close groups in a ten day period) additional measures will be considered and possibly introduced with the advice of public health:

- Children/ staff considered to be more vulnerable could be given the option of working remotely for up to 10 days
- Re-introduction of face coverings for adults in communal spaces
- Review of ventilation, possibly with use of CO2 monitors
- Review of cleaning regimes
- Review of testing expectations

Finally, in light of all of the advice and guidance above and in various documents produced by the Government, I would like to assure all parents that we are adhering to these guidelines as closely as possible.

If the guidelines change then we will adapt our working practises accordingly.

Our priority is the safety and well-being of staff and pupils.