

Outbreak Management Plan

(*This plan is subject to change pending further national or regional PHE guidance and review of the Contingency framework for education and childcare settings)

Date of Issue	Revised December 2021
Date of next review	As government advice changes
Person responsible for review	Rachel Davie (Executive Headteacher)

The contingency framework (latest edition) states that councils, directors of public health and Public Health England health protection teams can recommend certain measures for individual schools or clusters of settings.

This may happen to help manage outbreaks in schools, or if there is an “extremely high prevalence” of Covid-19 in the community and other measures have failed to reduce transmission, or as part of a package of measures “responding to a variant of concern”.

Current DFE guidance states that a localised school outbreak is: ‘whichever of these thresholds is reached first:

- 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; or
- 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period'

It may be necessary to implement these measures in the following circumstances:

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school
- If COVID-19 infection rates in the community are extremely high, and other measures have failed to reduce transmission
- As part of a package of measures responding to a 'Variant of Concern' (VoC)

The outbreak management plan should be read alongside the risk assessment.

ACTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE EVENT OF AN OUTBREAK

Guidance from health protection teams	Outbreak Management Action to be taken if PHE guidance recommends it – no action will be taken without a recommendation from Public Health Team	Length of Action
Communications to staff, pupils and families In the event of an outbreak, if the health teams advise measures, these must be communicated to stakeholders.	All stakeholders advised of potential outbreak and mitigating actions as quickly as possible after advice has been given.	
Re-introduction of Face Coverings The reintroduction of face coverings for staff has been advised for a temporary period in response to a variant of concern.	In line with the most recent guidance, external visitors who are not exempt from wearing a face covering are asked to keep on or put on a face covering when arriving at school and moving around indoors in places where social distancing is difficult to maintain, such as corridors, classrooms and in communal areas. In line with the most recent guidance, staff who are not exempt from wearing a face covering are asked to where a face covering in communal areas such as the PPA room.	DFE guidance for schools.
Self-isolation of close contacts It is noted that under current guidance, fully vaccinated adults and children under the years of 18years and 6 months do not have to isolate as close contacts. <u>However</u> , in some cases, health protection teams may recommend that a number of other pupils self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure. This could be the class or year group.	All stakeholders advised of potential outbreak and mitigating actions as quickly as possible after advice has been given. Full remote learning provision put in place. The Deputy Headteacher will revisit the Remote Learning Policy and expectations with teaching staff. Communications systems set up including expectations of remote learning for parents. Website: 'home learning' launched. Issue reminder of safe use and appropriate use of remote systems to all stakeholders.	As recommended by public health teams or DFE guidance for schools.
Asymptomatic Testing Additional testing may be recommended to pick up any asymptomatic testing in the school community.	If recommended, the school will increase the use of home testing by staff. If recommended, the school will communicate to parents with advice around adult family members taking asymptomatic tests.	As recommended by public health teams or DFE guidance for schools.
Reduce mixing of pupils It is noted that under current guidance, there is no longer any need for reduced mixing for pupils. <u>However</u> , in some cases, health protection teams may recommend that bubbles are put in place for a period whilst the outbreak is in place.	A revised system will be put in place for playground provision, lunchtimes and assemblies to ensure a reduction of 'bubble' contact.	As recommended by public health teams or DFE guidance for schools.
Shielding of vulnerable members of the community	The school will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding, which would apply to those on the shielded patient list (SPL) . We will carry out a risk assessment and speak to individuals required to shield about additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning.	As recommended by public health teams or DFE guidance for schools.

Wider Attendance Restrictions - School closure or Local & National Lockdowns.

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended by Public Health and the government as a last resort.

As with other periods of restricted attendance, schools should provide “high quality remote education” for all pupils or those not attending. If attendance restrictions are required across an area, the government will publish “detailed operational guidance” for schools.

Restrictions on attendance may be advised by local teams for individual settings or clusters (no more than 3 or 4) of “closely linked settings”.

If recommended, schools will implement the measures in this section. If restrictions in special schools are needed, the DfE’s attendance expectations “will remain in line with the equivalent age groups in mainstream schools”.

Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, schools will stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers

Education and support for pupils at home

All other pupils will be required to stay at home and will receive high quality remote education. Technology will be available to loan for any pupils who need it.

Schools will aim to deliver remote education that meets the same quality and quantity of education that pupils would receive in school, as outlined in our policy and remote learning guidance.

The school will continue to prioritise pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines, and offer vouchers as advised by the government.

Wraparound care

In the event of school closures, we will limit wraparound care during term time to vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers.

Schools will communicate who will be eligible to attend once the restrictions are confirmed.

Safeguarding

The school will review their child protection systems to make sure they reflect the local restrictions and remains effective.

The school will aim have a trained DSL or members of the safeguarding team on site, or available remotely, at all times.