

# **COVID – Outbreak Management Plan**

## **St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School**

**September 2021**

### **Introduction**

The Government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to operate as normally as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. The DfE's published COVID Contingency Framework states that schools should have an "outbreak management plan", outlining how they would operate if any of the measures described in the guidance were recommended for their setting or area.

Measures affecting education and childcare may be necessary in some circumstances, for example:

- to help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within a setting
- if there is extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community and other measures have failed
- to reduce transmission
- as part of a package of measures responding to a Variant of Concern (VoC)

In these cases, the Guidance also states that councils, directors of public health and PHE Health Protection Teams can recommend certain measures for individual schools or clusters of settings.

If there is a need to address more widespread issues across an area, "ministers will take decisions on an area-by-area basis".

**We will refer to and follow guidance in accordance with the PHE NW COVID-19 Resource Pack for Schools Version 7.0 (August 2021)**

### **Scenario 1 – Single Confirmed COVID Case**

If there is one case identified in school, the following steps will be taken in line with the latest guidance:

- If the case is a member of staff - school will liaise with Public Health passing on the relevant information or call the Self Isolation service helpline (0203 743 6715)
- School will follow the Local Authority reporting guidance, if relevant
- Close contacts will no longer need to isolate
- Test and Trace will carry out any relevant contact tracing
- Consideration will be given to visitor contacts
- Remote Learning Plan to be implemented for those isolating, where relevant
- School Covid Risk Assessment to be evaluated in light of any learning from new cases

### **Scenario 2 – Outbreak Within Setting**

The definition of an outbreak in a non-residential educational setting is:

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

An outbreak is deemed to span a 10-day period from the last positive diagnosis.

The best way to avoid an outbreak in a setting is to ensure preventative measures are in place.

Within our school, the following will be in place:

- A risk assessment that reflects the current *Government Guidance*
- Ventilation - passivent air system across the school, open windows, open plan classrooms, open internal doors
- Appropriate PPE is provided and worn in line with *Guidance*
- Hand sanitiser is freely available and children are guided to use
- Regular handwashing times for children, with extra help for younger pupils
- Staff given opportunity to work from home when appropriate
- LFT testing is available for all staff

Should an outbreak be identified, the following steps will be undertaken:

- School will liaise with Public Health passing on the relevant information
- School will follow their LA guidance for notification
- In collaboration with Public Health and the Leadership Team a decision will be made as to whether school or class can remain open
- DfE will be informed if the school is to close
- LA will be informed if the school is to close
- Remote learning plan will be implemented for all those asked to self-isolate
- External visitors to the school will stop until deemed safe
- School COVID Risk Assessment will be evaluated in light of any learning from new cases
- The school will use its discretion, whilst consulting with relevant national and local guidance, regarding the reintroduction of relevant control measures (e.g. temporary use of face coverings, increased cleaning, reintroduction of bubbles, staggered socialising times, lunch etc)

### **Scenario 3 - School is affected by a package of Local or National measures**

The COVID situation is ever changing as are the directed responses. At St Mary's we will work with the Diocese and the LA to ensure that we implement any Local or National restrictions and guidance. We will work in collaboration with relevant professionals and stakeholders to limit the impact on educational delivery. This will include working with the following:

- Parents/carers
- Pupils
- Public Health
- Shrewsbury Diocese
- Local Authority - CWAC
- Social Care
- DfE

The following plans are in place to support the continued delivery of education under any additional local or national control measures:

#### **Testing:**

- Distribution of LFD tests.

- We ensure they remain well stocked with LFD tests in case there is a requirement to increase home testing

#### **Face Coverings:**

- Should face coverings be recommended, we will amend our RA in line with the guidance.

#### **Shielding:**

- All clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) staff, students, children and young people should attend their school unless they are one of the very small number of individuals under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend.
- Should shielding be reintroduced, those on the shielded patient list will be supported to follow guidance. If this is a pupil, then the remote learning plan would be implemented. Shielding staff will be supported to work from home and measures put in place to support their wellbeing.

#### **Attendance restrictions:**

- Should attendance restrictions return, places will be prioritised for pupils in line with the current guidance:

*Primary Schools: "If some attendance restrictions are needed, all vulnerable children, children of critical workers, children in reception, year 1 and year 2 should still be allowed to attend. If, by exception, attendance is restricted further, vulnerable children and children of critical workers should still be allowed to attend."* Contingency Framework: Education and Childcare Settings (DFE, 25 June 2021)

- Where pupils have EHCPs and cannot attend school a risk assessment will be undertaken to assess if they are safer at home or in school.

#### **Safeguarding:**

- The Safeguarding Lead (Mr Hughes) or DSL (Mrs Thorpe) is almost always on site. In the rare event of neither being on site, one of both will be contactable by phone.
- Wellbeing calls will be made regularly (in line with individual pupil risk assessments) to ensure that pupils are safe and well at home.

#### **Meals:**

- Meals will continue to be provided for those on site.
- Those in receipt of free school meals who are not on site will either be provided with vouchers or food parcels

#### **Remote Learning Access:**

- As part of the school remote learning plan, details will be held of who requires a device to be provided. These will be available to be collected from school or, if there is prior warning, they will be distributed before any class/school closure.
- Part of the wellbeing calls and daily live morning lessons will be to monitor this provision and pupil access to the remote learning so that support can be given as required.

## **Appendix**

This plan should be read alongside the latest guidance for education settings operating during COVID (this is not an exhaustive list and these documents change frequently so the reader should check they have the most up to date guidance).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>