



Welton Primary School

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COVID-19: Outbreak Management Plan (Jan 2022)

Approved by:

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1. Introduction

This plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19 and the [schools operational guidance](#), published by the Department for Education (DfE) on **15th December 2021**. We recognise that Multi-agency collaboration and communication is important in ensuring consistency in approach across England wherever issues occur, so that no group of children, pupils or students is unfairly disadvantaged.

We will only implement some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by our local authority (LA), director of public health (DsPH), Public Health England (PHE) health protection team or the national government.

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

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school. Actions will be considered when either of the following thresholds are met:
 - There are 5 positive cases amongst pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely within a 10-day period.
 - 10% of pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive within a 10-day period
- 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)
- To prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

Close contacts in schools are now identified by NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

You should:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

2. Seeking public health advice

When one of the thresholds above is met, we will review the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures already in place.

We will also seek public health advice from a director of public health or health protection team. The Business Manager will be responsible for seeking this advice, and will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 0468687) or the local Public Health Protection Team if advised to do so.

Actions we will need to consider:

At the point of reaching a threshold, we will review and reinforce the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures that are already in place.

We will also consider:

- whether any activities could take place outdoors, including exercise, assemblies, or classes
- ways to improve ventilation indoors, where this would not significantly impact thermal comfort
- one-off enhanced cleaning focussing on touch points and any shared equipment

We will seek additional public health advice about transmission in the school, either by phoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1) or in line with other local arrangements.

A director of public health or an HPT may give settings advice reflecting the local situation. In areas where rates are high, this may include advice that local circumstances mean that the thresholds for extra action can be higher than set out in this document. They might advise us to take some of the [other measures](#) described in this document.

3. Testing

From Tuesday 14 December 2021, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 was introduced. Adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result. Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults - people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
- all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine

Children under 5 years are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If recommended, we will increase the use of home testing by all staff which is currently set to twice weekly.

4. Face coverings

If recommended, staff and visitors who are not exempt from wearing a face covering:

- Will be 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 in communal areas

5. Shielding

We will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding, which would apply to those on the [shielded patient list \(SPL\)](#).

We will speak to individuals required to shield about additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning.

6. Other measures

Parents, carers and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of control measures. This will be communicated via email once a decision is made.

If recommended, we will limit:

- Residential educational visits
- Open days
- Transition or taster days
- Parents coming into school
- Live performances

If recommended, we will reintroduce:

- Bubbles, to reduce mixing between groups

7. Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort. If recommended, we will implement the measures in this section.

7.1 Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers

7.2 Education and support for pupils at home

All other pupils will be required to stay at home and will receive remote education.

We 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 [remote learning policy](#).

The school will continue to provide meals or lunch vouchers for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines.

We will deliver lunch vouchers electronically via email unless the vulnerable family is unable to access, in which case we will deliver lunch parcels.

7.3 After School Activities

We will limit access to before and after-school activities during term time to those that need it most.

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

8.0 Safeguarding

Safeguarding procedures remain an essential part of our day to day operations. In light of any local outbreak, we will review our child protection policy to make sure it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective.

We will aim to have the DSL or deputy DSL on site wherever possible.

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for coordinating safeguarding on site.

When vulnerable pupils are absent, we will:

- Speak to parents/carers and, where appropriate, social workers and the local authority, to work out the reason for the absence
- Encourage attendance
- Ensure vulnerable pupils can access appropriate education and support while at home
- Maintain contact, and check regularly that the pupil is able to access remote education provision