



Coronavirus (COVID-19): Contingency Plan

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Signed by:

_____ Headteacher

Date: _____

_____ Chair of governors

Date: _____

The aim of this plan

If our local area sees a spike in coronavirus (COVID-19) infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, appropriate authorities will decide which measures to implement to help contain the spread – these measures could include the partial closure of schools in the Wirral area.

This document outlines how the school will operate if a local lockdown is implemented. If a local lockdown is implemented in our area, the school will work closely with the local health protection team (HPT) and implement provisions as advised by the team.

This is a live document that will be reviewed by the headteacher in conjunction with other key stakeholders as and when the situation develops.

On-site provision

Pupils

The school will continue to offer on-site provisions for eligible pupils – eligible pupils are likely to be vulnerable pupils and children of key / essential workers.

The number of pupils who will be attending school from these groups will be identified by contacting parents via email– this number will be used to agree what staffing resource is required.

Vulnerable pupils and children of key workers are permitted to travel into and out of the area for education – this includes parents taking their children to school.

In circumstances where a parent or carer of a child with a social worker does not want their child to attend the school, the school and the child's social worker will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent or carer, and work together with them to support the child to attend.

The headteacher will work with all relevant staff to decide appropriate pupil bubbles. We will work on the basic principle that class sizes are halved (with no more than 15 pupils per bubble) and that one teacher will be allocated to each bubble. Where there are teacher shortages, support staff may be asked to lead groups under the direction of a teacher. We will also ensure that support is in place for those pupils with SEND who are attending school.

Pupils will be kept in the same bubbles at all times each day, and different groups will not mix during the day, or on subsequent days. The same staff will be assigned to each bubble and, as far as possible, staff will stay assigned to the same bubble during the day and on subsequent days.

Staff

Key workers, which includes school staff, are permitted to travel into and out of the lockdown areas to get to work, to maintain provision for pupils who will be attending on-site school provision.

If shielding measures are reintroduced due to the local lockdown, affected members of staff will be supported to work from home or the appropriate leave or pay measures will be discussed.

Staff with roles that must be undertaken on site (e.g. teachers) will be asked to come into school to deliver provision, unless they are shielding or self-isolating. Staff members who are able to carry out their role from home will be supported to do so, where at all possible.

An audit of all staff will be conducted to assess who is able to work on site and who will need to work from home due to their underlying health issues or those of the people they live with. The audit will be reviewed on a continuous basis to establish whether the circumstances of any staff member have changed.

If any staff member has concerns regarding working on the school site, they will discuss these concerns with the Headteacher.

Infection prevention and control

The school's Infection Control Policy will continue to be adhered to – this policy meets the requirements set out in the DfE's system of controls.

Any member of the school community who displays symptoms of coronavirus will be encouraged to get a test. Tests can be booked online or ordered by telephone via NHS 111. Essential workers, including school staff, have priority access to testing.

If a pupil develops symptoms of coronavirus while on site, they will be taken to a designated isolation area (in the first instance this will be the school's medical room) while they wait to be collected. If required, the pupil will be supervised while they await collection. If the supervising member of staff is unable to maintain social distancing, e.g. due to the pupil's age or needs, they will wear PPE. After the pupil has left the premises, any areas they were in will be cleaned. The pupil's parents will be encouraged to get their child tested. The pupil will be required to self-isolate for at least 10 days – remote education will be arranged for them immediately.

If a staff member develops symptoms while on site, they will be directed to go home to self-isolate and to get a test. Cover arrangements will be put in place.

Any staff members or pupils who have been in close contact with a symptomatic individual do not need to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves or the individual subsequently tests positive.

If an individual tests positive, the school will contact the local HPT. The individual's close contacts at school will be sent home to self-isolate for 14 days and encouraged to get a test. If more individuals test positive, the school will follow advice from the local HPT, which may include requiring more people to self-isolate.

Transport

Pupils and staff that have to attend school will be encouraged to come to school by car, walk or cycle wherever possible and to avoid public transport. If pupils and staff need to use public transport, they will be reminded that those over the age of 11 are required to wear a face covering while travelling.

Remote education

If a local lockdown is implemented, the school will offer immediate access to remote education for pupils who are required to remain at home. If there is not a local lockdown, but a single class or bubble needs to self-isolate, the school will immediately implement remote learning for that group.

All remote learning will be delivered in line with the school's Pupil Remote Learning Policy.

Teaching and learning

All pupils will have access to high-quality education when remote working.

The school will use a range of teaching methods to cater for all different learning styles. Teachers will ensure lessons are inclusive for all pupils and can be adapted to account for the needs of disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND.

When teaching pupils who are working remotely, teachers will:

- Set tasks so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day.
- Deliver a planned, coherent, and well-sequenced curriculum which allows skills to continue to be built on and progressed.
- Provide frequent, clear explanations of new content through high-quality curriculum resources.
- Assess progress by using questions and other suitable tasks and be clear on how regularly work will be checked.
- Adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding.
- Plan a programme that includes the core subject teaching pupils would receive in school, ideally including daily contact with teachers, if staffing allows.

All provisions for remote learning will be subject to the class group's age, ability and/or any SEND.

In exceptional circumstances, the school may reduce its curriculum offering to enable pupils to cope with the workload – the headteacher will assess this need, keeping pupils' best interests in mind.

Teachers will continue to make use of formative assessments throughout the academic year,

Returning to school

The headteacher will consider all guidance from the Local Authority and other agencies to ensure pupils only return to school when it is safe for them to do so. Prior to the return of more pupils and staff, all relevant risk assessments will be reviewed.

After a period of self-isolation, or the lessening of local lockdown rules, the headteacher will inform parents when their child will be able to return to school.

The headteacher will listen to all concerns that parents may have about their child returning to school and will advise them of the measures in place to ensure the safety of their child.

Safeguarding

Ensuring safeguarding arrangements remain effective while the school is partially closed is a key priority.

Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy was updated with an Addendum, during the national lockdown to include provisions for keeping pupils safe during the coronavirus pandemic – we will continue to follow these procedures for pupils who remain at home, where appropriate, until all pupils are able to return to school.

We will continue to ensure that:

- The best interests of pupils always come first.
- If anyone in the school has a safeguarding concern about a pupil, they act immediately.
- A DSL or deputy DSL is always available.

- Unsuitable individuals are not permitted to work with pupils or come into contact with pupils whilst on site.
- Pupils who are working remotely from home follow the school's online safety guidance.

Catering

We will communicate any changes in provision of school meals to our parents and children, once the local lockdown situation has been fully considered and following a full risk assessment.

Communication

The school will communicate its plan for a local lockdown with parents, including whether it will remain open to vulnerable pupils and children of key workers, or if remote working will be applicable for all.

All relevant stakeholders will be kept up-to-date with the circumstances of the local lockdown and how it affects the school as they develop.

If any member of the school community wishes to discuss any concerns relating to the school's provision during this period, they should contact the following as appropriate:

- Staff – their line manager / Headteacher
- Pupils – their class teacher
- Parents – the headteacher

Monitoring and review

This plan will be reviewed continually in line with guidance from the government and Public Health England (PHE).

Any changes to the plan will be communicated to all relevant stakeholders.