**Archbishop Hutton’s VC Primary School**

**Return to School Covid19 Risk Assessment - SEPTEMBER 2021**

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| **Risk Assessment written by:**  | Headteacher S. Pugh | **Date:** August 2021 |
| **Approved by:** | Governing Body | **Date:** August 2021 |
| **Last reviewed on:** | August 2021 |
| **Next review due by:** | November 2021 |

**Government Advice**

As the country moves to Step 4 of the roadmap, the government will continue to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. This marks a new phase in the government’s response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone’s day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk. As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children 4 and young people’s education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for two doses by mid-September. Our priority is for you to deliver face-to-face, high quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health. The government have worked closely with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Public Health England (PHE) to revise this guidance.

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[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/annex-a-health-and-safety-risk-assessment](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/annex-a-health-and-safety-risk-assessment%20) [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/remote-education-temporary-continuity-direction-explanatory-note](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/remote-education-temporary-continuity-direction-explanatory-note%20)

**Control measures all schools should put in place:**

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.

This risk assessment is to be read alongside the school website and the school Covid19 Outbreak Management Plan.

See also: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/annex-a-health-and-safety-risk-assessment>

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| **Aspect** | **Measures taken to implement**  | **DfE Guidance** | **Risk** |
| **Mixing and ‘bubbles’** | **All bubbles will cease at the start of September. This so we can reintroduce the children back into ‘normal’ school life.** **Over the first few weeks of term we will manage the transition by mixing of year groups, key stage assemblies and mixing at playtime.** **KS1 and 2 lunchtimes will remain separate.** **Children will resume pre-Covid19 school routines but aspects such as hand hygiene, limited resources travelling between home and school and respecting others’ space and will remain.** **As with other measures – our Covid19 management plan outlines when the reintroduction of bubbles may be reintroduced. This would be carefully considered.**  | At Step 4 we will no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups (‘bubbles’). When we proceed to Step 4, this means that bubbles will not need to be used for any summer provision (for example, summer schools) or in schools from the autumn term. If your school is still open at Step 4, you may wish to continue with these measures until the end of your summer term. As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means that assemblies can resume, and you no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch. You should make sure your outbreak management plans cover the possibility that in some local areas it may become necessary to reintroduce ‘bubbles’ for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups. Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of ‘bubbles’ would not be taken lightly and would need to take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education |  |
| **Tracing close contacts and isolation** | **After step 4 we no longer need to do this.** **We will still advise our families of the guidance and anyone with symptoms we will require a negative test to return to school.****Our Covid19 management plan details the three scenario responses to positive testing.**  | Settings will only need to do contact tracing up to Step 4. From Step 4, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. You may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases. From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. 18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 4 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact. Settings will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is an outbreak in a setting or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, a director of public health might advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures. |  |
| **Face coverings** | **Due to being a primary and nursery school our staff have not worn face coverings in class but have in some areas of the school. Some staff have chosen to wear mask for health reasons.****Face coverings won’t be required from September unless advised from PH, Dr or Government, however staff can continue to wear them as a matter of personal choice.** **First aiders working very closely with children can continue to do so if they feel this is important for their health****We will follow PH advise in the case of an outbreak and communicate this quickly to staff and parents via School Spider app.** | From Step 4, face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. You can find more information on the use of face coverings including when to wear one, exemptions and how to make your own. From Step 4, face coverings are also no longer recommended to be worn on dedicated transport to school or college and are no longer legally required on public transport. In circumstances where face coverings are recommended If you have an outbreak in your school, a director of public health might advise you that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by pupils 6 staff and visitors, unless exempt). You should make sure your outbreak management plans cover this possibility. In these circumstances, transparent face coverings, which may assist communication with someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate, can also be worn. Transparent face coverings may be effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19. However, the evidence to support this is currently very limited. Face coverings (whether transparent or cloth) should fit securely around the face to cover the nose and mouth and be made with a breathable material capable of filtering airborne particles. The main benefit from a transparent face covering is that they can aid communication, for example enabling lip-reading or allowing for the full visibility of facial expressions, but this should be considered alongside the comfort and breathability of a face covering that contains plastic, which may mean that the face covering is less breathable than layers of cloth. Face visors or shields can be worn by those exempt from wearing a face covering but they are not an equivalent alternative in terms of source control of virus transmission. They may protect the wearer against droplet spread in specific circumstances but are unlikely to be effective in preventing the escape of smaller respiratory particles when used without an additional face covering. They should only be used after carrying out a risk assessment for the specific situation and should always be cleaned appropriately. The use of face coverings may have a particular impact on those who rely on visual signals for communication. Those who communicate with or provide support to those who do, are exempt from any recommendation to wear face coverings in education and childcare settings. You have a duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils to support them to access education successfully. Where appropriate, you should discuss with pupils and parents the types of reasonable adjustments that are being considered to support an individual. No pupil or student should be denied education on the grounds of whether they are, or are not, wearing a face covering |  |
| **Stepping measures up and down** | **We will follow Local PH guidance and the contingency framework.** **Our Covid19 management plan details the three scenario responses to positive testing or local outbreak measures.** **This is available via our website.****This will be communicated quickly and effectively through School Spider App** | You should have outbreak management plans outlining how you would operate if there were an outbreak in your school or local area. Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education can have on children and young people, any measures in schools should only ever be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum number of schools or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible. 7 Central government may offer local areas of particular concern an enhanced response package to help limit increases in transmission. The government will review its approach for enhanced response in local areas before Step 4. If you have several confirmed cases within 14 days, you may have an outbreak. You should call the dedicated advice service who will escalate the issue to your local health protection team where necessary and advise if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of your outbreak management plan. You can reach them by calling the DfE helpline on 0800 046 8687 and selecting option 1 for advice on the action to take in response to a positive case. The contingency framework describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 in education and childcare settings. Local authorities, directors of public health (DsPH) and PHE health protection teams (HPTs) can recommend measures described in the contingency framework in individual education and childcare settings – or a small cluster of settings – as part of their outbreak management responsibilities. |  |
| **Control measures** **1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone** | **Children will continue to wash hands on arrival and frequently with hot water and soap. There is hot water, a sink and soap outside each classroom as well.****Alcohol gels are available outside every classroom and in the shared areas.** **Frequently touched surfaces will be continued to wiped down at the end of every session.** **Catch it, bin it, kill it will be promoted across school****The site supervisor and team ensure that these are refilled each the day so we are never in a position of running out.** **Children was their hands routinely and regularly throughout the day and the start and end of each session.** | Hand hygiene Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice. You should continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser. Respiratory hygiene The ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach continues to be very important. The e-Bug COVID-19 website contains free resources for you, including materials to encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene. 8 Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) Most staff in schools will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work. The guidance on the use of PPE in education, childcare and children’s social care settings provides more information on the use of PPE for COVID-19. |  |
| **2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents** | **The same Covid routine will be in place for staff and cleaning staff based on the guidance of cleaning non-healthcare settings.** | You should put in place and maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule. This should include regular cleaning of areas and equipment (for example, twice per day), with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces. PHE has published guidance on the cleaning of non-healthcare settings. |  |
| **3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilate** | **Windows (and doors) will continue to be left open to aid the ventilation until such a point that this is not necessary.** | When your school is in operation, it is important to ensure it is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained. You should identify any poorly ventilated spaces as part of your risk assessment and take steps to improve fresh air flow in these areas, giving particular consideration when holding events where visitors such as parents are on site, for example school plays. Mechanical ventilation is a system that uses a fan to draw fresh air, or extract air from a room. These should be adjusted to increase the ventilation rate wherever possible and checked to confirm that normal operation meets current guidance and that only fresh outside air is circulated. If possible, systems should be adjusted to full fresh air or, if this is not possible, then systems should be operated as normal as long as they are within a single room and supplemented by an outdoor air supply. Where mechanical ventilation systems exist, you should ensure that they are maintained in accordance with the manufacturers’ recommendations. Opening external windows can improve natural ventilation, and in addition, opening internal doors can also assist with creating a throughput of air. If necessary, external opening doors may also be used (if they are not fire doors and where safe to do so). You should balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature. The Health and Safety Executive guidance on air conditioning and ventilation during the coronavirus outbreak and CIBSE COVID-19 advice provides more information. 9 DfE is working with the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) and NHS England on a pilot project to measure CO2 levels in classrooms and exploring options to help improve ventilation in settings where needed. |  |
| **4. Follow public health advice on testing, self- isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID19** | **School will follow the advice fully.****Our Covid19 management plan details the three scenario responses to positive testing or local outbreak measures.**  | When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine). If anyone in your school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, you should send them home and they should follow public health advice. If a pupil in a boarding school shows symptoms, they should usually self-isolate in their residential setting so that their usual support can continue, others may then benefit from self-isolating in their family home. For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household. If a pupil is awaiting collection, they should be left in a room on their own if possible and safe to do so. A window should be opened for fresh air ventilation if possible. Appropriate PPE should also be used if close contact is necessary, further information on this can be found in the use of PPE in education, childcare and children’s social care settings guidance. Any rooms they use should be cleaned after they have left. The household (including any siblings) should follow the PHE stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. |  |
| **Asymptomatic testing** | **We will follow the guidance.** **We will not be testing year 6 before they return in September.** **Staff will continue to test twice a week** | Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. That is why, whilst some measures are relaxed, others will remain, and if necessary, in response to the latest epidemiological data, we all need to be prepared to step measures up or down in future depending on local circumstances. Over the summer, staff and secondary pupils should continue to test regularly if they are attending settings that remain open, such as summer schools and out of school activities based in school settings. Schools will only provide tests for twice weekly asymptomatic testing for pupils and staff over the summer period if they are attending school settings. 10 However, testing will still be widely available over the summer and kits can be collected either from your local pharmacy or ordered online. As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school pupils should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term. Settings may commence testing from 3 working days before the start of term and can stagger return of pupils across the first week to manage this. Pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. Staff should undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed. Secondary schools should also retain a small asymptomatic testing site (ATS) on-site until further notice so they can offer testing to pupils who are unable to test themselves at home. There is no need for primary age pupils (those in year 6 and below) to test over the summer period. They will be offered the 2 tests at an ATS at the beginning of the autumn term when they start at their secondary school as a new year 7. Schools may choose, however, to start testing year 6 pupils earlier, including in summer schools, depending on their local circumstances |  |
| **Confirmed positive tests** | **We will follow the guidance.****Our Covid19 management plan details the three scenario responses to positive testing or local outbreak measures.**  | Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn’t have COVID-19 symptoms. Other considerations We have no children who have not been attending. Visitors are all made aware of the school risk assessment and expectation. Visitors will be informed of operating at the point in time as we transition through to full school operation.  |  |
| **Admitting positive children to school**  | **Children displaying COVID 19 symptoms will not be allowed to attend school until they have a negative PCR COVID test.****Our Covid19 management plan details the three scenario responses to positive testing or local outbreak measures** | In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your school, you can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Your decision would need to be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice. |  |
| **Attendance at school**  | **School attendance remains a priority for all children.** **School will follow the guidance from Government and Lancashire Education authority****Our Covid19 management plan details our response to attendance issues due to positive testing or local outbreak measures** | School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school. Where a child is required to self-isolate or quarantine because of COVID-19 in accordance with relevant legislation or guidance published by PHE or the DHSC they should be recorded as code X (not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus). Where they are unable to attend because they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 they should be recorded as code I (illness). 12 For pupils abroad who are unable to return, code X is unlikely to apply. In some specific cases, code Y (unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances) will apply. Further guidance about the use of codes is provided in the school attendance guidance. |  |
| **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 Education Further Information Guide which can be found** [**https://www.archbishophuttons.lancs.sch.uk/page/remote-learning/92732**](https://www.archbishophuttons.lancs.sch.uk/page/remote-learning/92732) | Not all people with COVID-19 have symptoms. Where appropriate, you should support those who need to self-isolate because they have tested positive to work or learn from home if they are well enough to do so. Schools subject to the remote education temporary continuity direction are required to provide remote education to pupils covered by the direction where their attendance would be contrary to government guidance or legislation around COVID-19. You should maintain your capacity to deliver high quality remote education for next academic year, including for pupils who are abroad, and facing challenges to return due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, for the period they are abroad. Independent Schools (not including academies) are only covered by the remote education temporary continuity direction in relation to state-funded pupils in their schools. However, they are still expected to meet the Independent School Standards in full at all times. The remote education provided should be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school. You should work collaboratively with families and put in place reasonable adjustments so that pupils with SEND can successfully access remote education. Full expectations for remote education, support and resources can be found on the get help with remote education service |  |
| **School meals** | **School will provide FSM to children who are off due to COVID**  | You should continue to provide free school meal support to any pupils who are eligible for benefitsrelated free school meals and who are learning at home during term time. More information on providing school meals during the COVID-19 pandemic is available |  |
| **Educational and Residential visits**  | **The school visit to Robin Wood will go ahead in September.****We have adhered to the risk assessments of Robin Wood and will take measures to stop any positive cases by:****Stopping any positive children from attending the visit****Removing any children with symptoms from the site if required****All risk assessments have been completed and signed off by LCC** | Given the likely gap in COVID-19 related cancellation insurance, if you are considering booking a new visit, whether domestic or international, you are advised to ensure that any new bookings have adequate financial protection in place. We continue to recommend you do not go on any international visits before the start of the autumn term. From the start of the new school term you can go on international visits that have previously been deferred or postponed and organise new international visits for the future. You should be aware that the travel list (and broader international travel policy) is subject to change and green list countries may be moved into amber or red. The travel lists may change during a visit and you must comply with international travel legislation and should have contingency plans in place to account for these changes. You should speak to either your visit provider, commercial insurance company, or the Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) to assess the protection available. Independent advice on insurance cover and options can be sought from the British Insurance Brokers' Association (BIBA) or Association of British Insurers (ABI). Any school holding ATOL or ABTA refund credit notes may use these credit notes to rebook educational or international visits. You should undertake full and thorough risk assessments in relation to all educational visits and ensure that any public health advice, such as hygiene and ventilation requirements, is included as part of that risk assessment. General guidance about educational visits is available and is supported by specialist advice from the Outdoor Education Advisory Panel (OEAP). |  |