



Background

This latest risk assessment has been updated to reflect national guidance issued on 22nd February 2022.

This risk assessment therefore aims to ensure the latest advice from DFE is adhered and our own strengthening of this if required due to local circumstances. We will continue to work closely with the Local Authority and Public Health England should the need arise. We will also ensure the school is ready to switch to remote learning if required in line with DFE statutory guidance.

This risk assessment will be monitored, evaluated and adapted on a rolling basis following national or local advice or experience should the need be required.

Challenges:

Staff Availability – Sickness, normal illnesses such as Flu

Staff not being able to attend work due to child care if other schools are closed or their children have to self-isolate as they test positive. This will be treated in line with normal child care procedures now. Staff not being able to attend due to self-isolating should they test positive. All this could well impact on provision.

Parents sending their children to school when they know they are unwell. This is a minority of parents but does not help control the spread of a highly contagious virus.

Several overarching principles

-Students and staff that show symptoms of Covid 19 must still self-isolate, report this to the school and take a PCR test.

-Students and staff that test positive must self-isolate for the recommended period of time.

-Handwashing with soap and water or hand sanitiser has to be normal practice throughout the school day.

-Good hygiene, using tissues to catch sneezes and coughs must be practised and these disposed of in the special bins throughout the school.

-Enhanced cleaning will remain in place.

-Face masks/covering to be worn by individual choice.

-Consenting staff and students will be advised to continue to test twice weekly for Covid until 1st April 2022.

Risks	High/Med /Low Risk	Actions taken (<i>bold and italics is from the DFE</i>)	High/Med/ Low Risk
Children / Adults attending school who are infected with Covid-19	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms do not attend school.</i> We will remind parents of the rules and clearly encourage them to keep their child at home and to get tested. The same will be for staff. • We are regularly reminding students through our PSHCEE, Tutorial and Assembly programme of the rules, advice and guidance. • We are regularly informing Parents/Carers of the same via letters. • Staff are reminded regularly through school email and bulletin messages. 	Medium
Spread of infection	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.</i> The school will ensure there are plenty of supplies of soap and washing facilities frequently topped up and encourage this constantly. We have installed a number of wall mounted hand sanitiser stations and all class rooms will have sanitiser. Students and staff can also bring their own to school. • <i>Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach.</i> Students and staff will be regularly reminded of this and this is displayed on posters around the school. Every classroom and office will have a double bagged pedal bin only for tissues and discarded face masks. • <i>Cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach.</i> The school has liaised with its cleaning company and cleaners will be in school during the day making regular sweeps of the school disinfecting handles, rails etc. to support the work of the site team. All classrooms will have cloths and disinfectant to be able to wash down tables at regular intervals. • Due to the school site and travel patterns we have never staggered the start of the day but we did the end. This will continue as primarily it helps management and traffic at the end of the day. Whilst this is no longer a Covid measure it will assist. Y7 and Y8 will leave at 3.00pm with the rest of the school leaving at 3.10pm. All Year groups have their required 25 hours, indeed Years 9 and above actually gain 10 minutes in lesson each day. We encourage all students to walk or cycle to school, which the vast majority already do. • On arrival at school students should wash their hands or with hand sanitiser which is widely available across the school site. This is a secondary school and our students are old enough to be trusted to do this. Students should continue to wash their hands frequently throughout the school day. Hand sanitiser will be available in all classrooms, the canteen and other various locations in the school via bottles and wall units. Students can also bring their own hand sanitiser to school. • Face masks/coverings are a matter for personal choice. They must only disposed of in dedicated pedal bins. • Government guidance allows students to sit side by side in their lessons. Normal class sizes will take place, following government guidance. We will also merge classes if the needs arises following the advice from the DFE due to staff absence. 	MEDIUM

<p>Spread of Infection – PPE and first aid. (A separate risk assessment is in place for first aid)</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-way systems will no longer be in force across the school. The exception is Woodside as this actually aided flow of people around the building and is now not related to Covid. • A short mid-morning break has been reintroduced. We will maintain two lunch periods. Year 7 and 11 will have their lunch first followed by Years 8, 9, 10. This remains as it proved popular. The Hall/Canteen will not now be divided into year group seating areas. • Extra-Curricular activities can continue as normal. As can sports fixtures etc. Masks must be worn on the minibus. • Windows and doors should remain open whilst teaching is taking place, with the exception in Woodside where doors MUST remain closed, due to each room having its own ventilation system. If the fire alarm sounds doors must be closed by the teacher as they leave the room. • The School timetable essentially returns to normal but keeping the split lunchtime. • All lessons will take place as normal, this includes practical lessons such as PE, Food or Science. PE changing will continue as it has since September. • Clinically extremely (and) Vulnerable staff and students must attend school. We have provided more screens in classrooms for these staff and these can remain and they can choose to take further preventative measures, such as wearing a face mask. • TESTING – All staff and students who have consented to testing we continue to advise this until 1st April, twice weekly. We recommend conducting this on a Sunday and Wednesday. • Asymptomatic testing. All students or student groups will be tested on site (those that consent) should the need arise. <p><i>The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.</i> The School has purchased all of the above in order to deal with this and training has been given to first aiders. 	<p>LOW – based on the premise transmission in the community will be low.</p>
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<p>Spread of Infection – other measure and adults</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Note the catering and cleaning is provided by external contractors who will require their own risk assessment but there is some overlap here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screens in place at main reception. • Finger scanning in the canteen will return but this will be frequently cleaned. • Hand sanitiser stations in place at key locations, i.e. in the canteen, most entrances and exits, PE, Library, main reception etc. All classrooms and offices have sanitiser and tissues and a special pedal bin. • Several offices where social distancing is limited will have screens between desks should the staff working here wish them to remain. • Only office staff allowed in the main school office or student services at any time, except in emergencies. • With the exception of PE and Business all departments have their own social areas for making tea, coffee etc. Follow practices of good hygiene and washing hands and use only the facilities in own areas which in essence creates staff bubbles. PE and Business and our cover supervisor ONLY should use facilities in the staffroom for food and drink. The staffroom however can be used more widely now for meetings etc. • All meetings will take place in classrooms or rooms big enough so it is not crowded with windows open etc. Social distancing does not have to take place but staff must still be mindful of space. • We advise staff on duty in the canteen to wear a face mask. • Face to Face Meetings with parents, external agencies etc. can all now go ahead however, wherever possible these should be held over the phone, remotely via Teams/Zoom or with a suitable distance. • Deliveries and onsite contractors will continue now as normal. 	<p>Low</p>
<p>Someone becomes unwell at an educational or childcare setting?</p>	<p>HIGH at the current time</p>	<p>If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they must be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19 guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance.</p> <p>If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.</p> <p>If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.</p> <p>PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained.</p> <p>In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk.</p>	<p>Medium</p>

<p>Confirmation of a case.</p>	<p>HIGH at the current time</p>	<p>If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available). They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.</p> <p>When a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate in line with current government guidelines and get tested.</p> <p>All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested. The School will then follow all advice from PHE.</p> <p>Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting.</p> <p>Where the child or staff member tests positive they must immediately isolate as advised following latest government guidance. If the positive result is from a LFD they must isolate and get a confirmatory PCR test.</p> <p>Close contacts, even in the family home, do not need to isolate if they are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fully vaccinated • below the age of 18 years 6 months • have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial • are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons <p>If you do not fall into these categories then you are advised to isolate. Your isolation period includes the date of your last contact with the person who had a positive test result if this can be identified or when you started symptoms or if asymptomatic the test date of your PCR for COVID-19 and the next 10 full days. Self-isolation means you must stay at home and not leave the house. Do not go to work, school, or public areas, and do not use public transport or taxis. Do not go outside even to buy food or other essentials, except in certain specific circumstances. Any exercise must be taken within your home, garden or private outdoor space.</p>	<p>Medium</p>
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	<i>As part of the national test and trace programme, they may contact the school. Contact tracing for students will no longer be conducted by the school. If you conduct a negative LFD on Day 5 and 6 then you isolation can end before the ten days.</i>	
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When the school should take further action. (from DFE August 2021)

If the number of positive cases substantially increases the following threshold from the current guidance and the school should contact Public Health England. For most education and childcare settings, whichever of these thresholds is reached first:

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

Actions to consider once a threshold is reached. Review and reinforce the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures they already have in place.

Settings should 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

Settings may wish to seek additional public health advice if they are concerned about transmission in the setting, 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 above. They might advise the setting to take some of the other measures.

Additional action that could be advised by public health experts

If the Director of Public Health (DsPH) or a Health Protection Team (HPT) subsequently judges that additional action should be taken because they have assessed that transmission is likely to be occurring in the setting, they may advise settings take extra measures such as:

1. Strengthened communications to encourage students to undertake twice weekly rapid asymptomatic home testing and reporting
2. Temporarily reinstating face coverings for students, staff and visitors in indoor and/or communal spaces. This should be for two weeks in the first instance, pending regular review

3. Reinstating on-site rapid LFD testing a two-week period to encourage uptake of twice weekly testing

4. Increased frequency of testing

They may also recommend the actions listed under Other Measures in the contingency framework, or other proportionate measures to support continuing face-to-face education. In extreme cases, and as a last resort where all other risk mitigations have not broken chains of in-school transmission, a DPH may advise introducing short-term attendance restrictions in a setting, such as sending home a class or year group. High-quality remote learning should be provided for all students well enough to learn from home. On-site provision should in all cases be retained for vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers. Where they have advised settings to take extra measures, DsPH and HPTs will work closely with their Regional Partnership Teams and keep the situation under regular review. They will inform settings when it is appropriate to stop additional measures, or if they should be extended.

Name of staff writing the Risk Assessment – Lawrence Smith - Role – Headteacher Date – updated 24th February 2022

Chair of Governors – Mr H Verma