

STANBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL



COVID-19 – Outbreak Management Plan September 2021

Date of Issue	September 2021
Date of next review	As government advice changes or December 2021 (whichever is soonest)
Person responsible for review	Mrs Madden – Head Teacher

COVID-19 - Outbreak Management Plan

(*This plan is subject to change pending further national or regional PHE guidance and review of the Contingency framework for education and childcare settings)

Stanborough Primary School

Introduction

This plan is based on the '[Contingency framework: education and childcare settings](#)' and '[Schools COVID-19 operational guidance](#)' documents which lay out how to manage local outbreaks of COVID-19. The guidance states schools should have "outbreak management plans", outlining "how they would operate" if any of the measures described in the guidance were recommended for their setting or area.

The contingency framework (latest edition) states that councils, directors of public health and Public Health England health protection teams can recommend certain measures for individual schools or clusters of settings.

This may happen to help manage outbreaks in schools, or if there is an "extremely high prevalence" of Covid-19 in the community and other measures have failed to reduce transmission, or as part of a package of measures "responding to a variant of concern".

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

Current DFE guidance states that a localised school outbreak is: 'whichever of these thresholds is reached first:

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

Schools may need to consider the implementation of some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by their local Public Health team, Public Health England (PHE) health protection team, the DfE or the government.

For further advice or in the case of an outbreak the following numbers can be contacted:

- The government helpline 0800 046 8687

ACTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE EVENT OF AN OUTBREAK

Guidance from health protection teams	Outbreak Management Action to be taken if PHE guidance recommends it.
<p>Self-isolation of close contacts It is noted that under current guidance, fully vaccinated adults and children under the years of 18 years and 6 months do not have to isolate as close contacts. <u>However</u>, in case of an outbreak, health protection teams may recommend that a number of other pupils self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure. This could be the class or year group. From 19th July contact tracing has no longer been undertaken by schools but rather by NHS Track & Trace. In the case of an outbreak schools may be required to work with health protection teams for contact tracing purposes.</p>	<p>Parents informed – contacts self-isolating Full remote learning provision put in place</p>
<p>Re-introduction of Face Coverings The reintroduction of face coverings for staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern.</p>	<p>If recommended, staff and visitors who are not exempt from wearing a face covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 corridors and in communal areas
<p>Asymptomatic Testing Additional testing may be recommended to pick up any asymptomatic testing in the school community.</p>	<p>If recommended, the school will increase the use of home testing by staff. If recommended, the school will communicate to parents with advice around adult family members taking asymptomatic tests.</p>
<p>Reduce mixing of students It is noted that under current guidance, there is no longer any need for reduced mixing for pupils. <u>However</u>, in some cases, health protection teams may recommend that bubbles are put in place for a period whilst the outbreak is in place.</p>	<p>Based on risk assessment and advice, school will limit the mixing of pupil and staff groups as we did during the academic year 2020/21. Staff will be allocated to year group bubbles. Pupils will be allocated to class or year group bubbles Visitors into school will be limited to essential services only Playtimes and lunchtimes - play areas zoned to reduce mixing</p>
<p>Communications to staff, pupils and families In the event of an outbreak, if the health teams advise measures, these must be communicated to stakeholders.</p>	<p>All stakeholders advised of potential outbreak and mitigating actions as quickly as possible after advice has been given.</p>
<p>Shielding of vulnerable members of the community</p>	<p>The school will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding, which would apply to those on the shielded patient list (SPL).</p> <p>We will carry out a risk assessment and speak to individuals required to shield about additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning.</p>

<p>Restrictions to teaching and learning arrangements</p> <p>Where advised during a local outbreak, further restrictions may be enforced with regards to certain musical and drama activities, e.g. singing, for pupils attending on-site provision, to help reduce the risk of transmitting coronavirus via aerosols. Restrictions may also be reintroduced to contact and indoor sports.</p>	<p>Where possible, restricted activities such as sporting activities, singing, musical instrument lessons will take place outside or, following local/national/subject specific guidelines for safe provision indoors eg. large, well-ventilated spaces, restricted numbers of children, spacing between etc.</p>
<p>Reduction of wider school activities</p> <p>Public Health Teams may advise schools to reduce their timetable to normal school day activities. This may mean limiting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential & educational visits • Open days • Transition or taster days • Parents coming into school • Live performances 	<p>The school will ensure that the Public Health Teams are aware of any additional activities when communicating about a potential outbreak. If these need to be limited, the school will ensure communication to stakeholder via email and/or Class Dojo to ensure cancellations are understood quickly.</p>
<p>Restricting School Attendance</p> <p>The government has advised that all schools should continue to operate as normal and that all pupils should attend school unless required to self-isolate.</p> <p>The contingency framework is designed to act as a containment measure where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is extremely high prevalence of coronavirus. • Other measures have already been implemented. • There is a need to minimise the impact from a new coronavirus variant. <p>Restrictive attendance measures, of the kind set out in the contingency framework, must not be implemented by schools without the explicit agreement of the DfE.</p> <p>Restricting attendance in any form will only be used as a last resort, initiated following a ministerial decision. Where restrictions to attendance are implemented following government advice, they will be kept to a minimum, allowing for the maximum number of pupils to attend education; however, in all circumstances, priority will be given to vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers to attend full time.</p> <p>As part of their outbreak management responsibilities, LAs, Directors of Public Health, and HPTs may advise individual settings or a cluster of closely linked settings to limit attendance in one of the ways described in this section.</p> <p>Early years settings as part of a primary school</p> <p>School-based nurseries in primary schools will have the discretion to follow the arrangements set for the primary school.</p> <p>Primary schools</p> <p>Unless advised otherwise, the school will allow all pupils to attend. If the contingency framework is implemented, the school will only allow the following pupils to attend on-site provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable pupils • Children of critical workers 	

- Pupils in Reception and Years 1 and 2, where advised by the DfE

High-quality remote education will be provided for all pupils not in attendance, in line with the School's Pupil Remote Learning Policy.

Safeguarding during any required restricted attendance - Ensuring safeguarding arrangements remain effective during periods of restricted attendance is a key priority. Vulnerable pupils will be offered a place in school. Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy has been updated to include provisions for keeping pupils safe during the coronavirus pandemic, both at home and in school – 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 remain at home are protected when they are online. Online safety advice and sources of information will be regularly communicated to parents.

There are three school leaders with up to date DSL training: Mrs Madden (Headteacher and Deputy DSL); Mrs Adewole Deputy Headteacher and DSL) & Mrs Dean-Roberts (Early Years Lead and Deputy DSL). A trained DSL or deputy will remain on-site (or will be easily contactable) during any restricted attendance. Safeguarding contact details will be regularly communicated to parents.

Lifting Restrictions

The school will lift restrictions as soon as it is advised by the government that it is appropriate