

Langdon Primary School –Covid 19 : Outbreak Management Plan - from 1 September 2021



Arrangements from beginning of National Phase 4 from 1.9.21

This Covid-19 Outbreak Management Plan documents some of the actions that we may take in the event of a member of the school community testing positive for Covid-19; to help manage a Covid-19 outbreak within the school; if there is a high prevalence of Covid-19 in the community and other measures have failed to reduce transmission; as part of a packages of measures responding to a Variant of Concern (VoC) and how we will operate if we were advised to introduce any measures to break the chains of transmission.

This document has been drawn up with reference to the following guidance:

- Schools Covid-19 Operational Guidance
- Contingency framework: education and childcare settings (DfE, August 2021)

Key Principles

The overarching principle is to maximise the number of children in face-to-face education and minimize disruption, in a way that best manages the risks associated with Covid-19.

Key Messages

We will endeavour to keep any measures in education to the minimum number of classes or groups, for the shortest amount of time possible. Measures will be kept under strict review and we will lift them as soon as the evidence supports doing so.

The measures outlined in this document are not exhaustive. Where advised, the school will work with public health, the local authority and central government to implement recommendations that will mitigate against Covid-19 or any variants thereof.

Single Confirmed Case of Covid-19:

If there is a single confirmed case of Covid-19 identified in the school, the following actions will be taken in line with latest guidance:

- **Staff:**
 - ❖ Staff should self isolate immediately, stay at home and NOT come into school
 - ❖ If in school, leave immediately and begin self isolation
 - ❖ Follow public health advice

- ❖ Arrange to have a PCR test
- ❖ Self isolate for 10 days from date symptoms started or until negative test outcome received
- ❖ Do not return to school if unwell with high temperature (this is not necessary for a continuing cough or loss or change to taste or smell which can persist for several weeks)

- ***Pupils:***
 - ❖ Pupil should self isolate immediately, stay at home and NOT come into school
 - ❖ If in school, isolate in the small room of the cabin building ensuring doors and windows are open, parents will be called to collect the child immediately in order to begin self isolation, thorough cleaning of room to take place after pupils leaves school, supervising staff must remain outside the room or put on full PPE if they need to enter the room (gloves, face mask, face visor, apron) and ensure thorough hand washing/sanitizing after dealing with the child
 - ❖ Follow public health advice
 - ❖ Advise parents to arrange for the child to have a PCR test
 - ❖ Tell parents of their obligation to ensure that their child self isolates for 10 days from date symptoms started or until negative test outcome received
 - ❖ Child must not return to school if unwell with high temperature (this is not necessary for a continuing cough or loss or change to taste or smell which can persist for several weeks)

If a member of staff tests positive, the HT will make contact with the Self Isolation Service Hub on 020 3743 6715; they will, if the transmission threshold is reached, support staff who need to self isolate due to close contact with the positive case.

If a pupil or member of staff is admitted to hospital with Covid-19 the school will seek public health advice by phoning the DfE helpline on 0800 046 8687, option 1. Hospitalisation could indicate an increased severity of illness or a new variant of concern. Schools may be offered public health support in managing risk assessments and in communicating with parents and staff.

Outbreak of Covid-19 Within Setting:

Extra actions should be taken by schools when the number of positive cases substantially increases. This is because it could indicate that transmission is happening in the setting. The threshold for extra action, which can be used as an indication for when to seek public health advice is whichever is reached first, as follows:

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

The following actions will be considered for implementation in this school if a threshold is reached:

- ***Enhanced Cleaning:***

Additional cleaning routines will be implemented by all staff and by cleaning and site staff if needed. Consideration will be given to additional hours for cleaning staff to attend during school hours in order to clean communal areas such as kitchens, staff room and toilets, if necessary.

- **Additional testing:**

Increased testing by staff using LFD tests may be implemented on a more regular basis than 2x weekly, including the introduction of daily testing.

- **Use of face coverings:**

Face coverings may be temporarily introduced for members of staff in classrooms, communal areas. If this measure is advised any visitors, including parents, to the site will be asked to wear face coverings when in the school grounds, including outdoors at times such as dropping off and collection at the beginning and end of the day.

- **Shielding:**

Where clinically vulnerable and/or clinically extremely vulnerable members of staff or pupils are identified by their medical teams, shielding or working from home may be introduced. Remote learning will be in place for pupils and staff will be expected to support teaching and learning for individuals, groups or whole classes as appropriate. Teaching in school can be accommodated virtually using Zoom and for pupils, virtual support can be given for core subjects.

- **Reducing out of school activities:**

Visits out of school may be limited if there are local or national restrictions. These visits would include activities such as swimming lessons; sports and PE lessons that take place off site eg. gymnastics; inter-school collaboration events; day visits and residential visits. Financial recompense on behalf of the school and/or parents will be sought by the school for any cancelled events but cannot be guaranteed.

- **Reducing in school activities:**

Limiting visitors to the school site may be introduced to reduce the possibility of wider transmission into the community. Events such as face to face parents meetings; open days; assemblies; performances; transition days; taster days and PTFA led events may be postponed, cancelled or where possible, moved to an online platform. For parent meetings and outside agency work with staff, School Cloud or Zoom platforms may be used as an alternative to face to face meetings on site.

- **Reducing close mixing:**

Reintroducing 'bubble' arrangements and limiting mixing between classes or staff groups may be considered to reduce close contacts across the school. Close contacts are currently defined as:

- ❖ A class
- ❖ A friendship group mixing at breaktimes
- ❖ A sports team
- ❖ A group in an out of school hours activity eg. Breakfast Club, tutor groups, clubs
- ❖

In the event of reintroducing of bubbles, all classes will remain separated and have designated teaching, toilet and play zones. No pupils will be allowed to attend lessons in other classes. Staff working in multiple classes will be limited to the Head Teacher and Intervention Teacher who will limit their work to Key Stage Two classes only. Breakfast Club will be separated into Key Stage One and Key Stage Two groups. Tutor groups will only involve children and staff from the same staff bubble.

Bubble groups for classes in our school will be as follows:

- ❖ Mrs Seccatore/Mrs Keem's Classes
- ❖ Miss Warburton's Class
- ❖ Mr Jones' Class

- **Attendance restrictions:**

High quality face to face education remains a government priority. Attendance restrictions will only ever be considered as a short term measure and as a last resort where other recommended measures have not broken chains of in-setting, local or national transmission; to manage a new and potentially dangerous variant and/or to protect pressures on the NHS. The school will only implement attendance restrictions if advised to do so by public health, the local authority and/or central government. Priority will be given to vulnerable pupils and to the children of critical workers to attend school as usual. Remote education will be provided to all pupils who are unable to attend school in the event of attendance restrictions. IT hardware will be loaned to families who have difficulties accessing remote learning due to a lack of suitable devices.

Safeguarding leads will continue to be available during any school closure periods. The DSL or deputy DSL will, as far as possible attend school as usual. If they are unable to attend school then telephone contact will be maintained as usual. In the very unlikely event that the DSL and deputy DSL are not available, then support from collaboration schools' DSLs will be sought and the Local Authority informed of this temporary arrangement. For pupils entitled to benefits related Free School Meals, these will continue to be provided during periods of school closure in the form of locally sourced vouchers.

If the transmission threshold is reached, the HT will make contact with the Self Isolation Service Hub on 020 3743 6715 who will support pupils and/or staff who need to self isolate due to close contact with the positive case.