



# COVID-19: outbreak management plan

## 1. Introduction

This plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19, provided by the Department for Education (DfE). This was updated in February 2022 in line with the government's 'Living with Covid' announcement.

We will only implement some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by our local authority (LA), director of public health (DsPH), Public Health England (PHE) health protection team or the national government. Circumstances where additional measures are needed might include the following:

- to help manage severe operational impacts or identified health risks of a COVID19 outbreak within the school
- as part of a package of measures responding to a variant of concern (VoC) or to extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community
- to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

There are no longer identified 'thresholds' for a Covid outbreak within a school setting. However, the school may seek public health advice regarding additional measures where there are the following concerns:

- a higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of staff or student absences due to COVID-19 infection
- evidence of severe disease due to COVID-19, for example if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital due to COVID-19
- a cluster of cases where there are concerns about the health needs of vulnerable staff or students within the affected group

Should additional measures be required, the chair of governors will be informed. Any decisions to make short term changes to our provision in line with this plan will be communicated to Parents/Guardians via Parentmail as soon as possible. Staff and governors will be notified via email with only urgent updates to staff communicated via the staff WhatsApp group.

## 2. Risk Assessment

In the event of a Covid outbreak within a class/year group, we will immediately review our current baseline measures which are already in place – these include hygiene, ventilation and following the guidance for people with Covid-19/respiratory infections. We will then consider what additional actions might be necessary.

If any additional measures are recommended, the aim is to ensure that these are used in the short term only. The additional measures below are all based on control measures from our previous Covid risk assessments, and as such, could be implemented at short notice in school following the plans in place from the previous year.

### **3. Other measures**

If recommended, we will limit:

- Visitors to the school
- Parents coming into school
- Use of volunteers
- Events such as live performances or open sessions
- Extra-curricular activities
- Residential educational visits
- Contact between different year groups of pupils on site, including in assemblies.

If recommended, we may also re-introduce:

- Restrictions of numbers of staff permitted to use shared areas such as the staff room at any one time.
- Use of virtual meetings instead of face-to-face
- Increased use of masks for adults on the school site
- Year group 'bubbles' to limit contact between children on site

### **4. People that are vulnerable to Covid-19**

Following expert clinical advice and the successful rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine programme, people previously considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) will not be advised to shield again. Individuals previously identified as CEV are advised to continue to follow the same guidance as the general public on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Individuals with a weakened immune system should follow DHSC and UKHSA advice for people whose immune system means they are at higher risk from COVID-19.

We will speak to individuals who are particularly vulnerable to Covid-10 about additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning where this is advised as appropriate by health professionals.

### **5. Attendance restrictions**

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort, and will be used for the shortest time possible. If recommended, we will implement the measures in this section.

#### **5.1 Eligibility to remain in school**

If attendance restrictions are applied, we will provide a special provision in school for

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers

#### **5.2 Education and support for pupils at home**

All other pupils will be required to stay at home and will receive remote education as detailed on our website <https://www.whiteleyprimary.co.uk/remote-learning/>.

The school will provide lunch parcels or vouchers for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines.

### **5.3 Wraparound care**

Should attendance restrictions apply, we will limit access to before and after-school activities and wraparound care during term time and holidays to those that are eligible for special provision in school.

We will communicate who will be eligible to attend once any restrictions are confirmed.

### **5.4 Safeguarding**

We will review our child protection policy to make sure it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective.

We will have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site at all times.

**Updated 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022**