

COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT – September 2021

We believe that ensuring the health and safety of staff, pupils and visitors to our schools is essential. While we recognise that it is impossible to eliminate all risks related to the transmission of COVID-19 within school premises, or guarantee that it could not occur, the measures within this risk assessment seek to control and minimise the identifiable risks. All members of the trust’s community have a responsibility for health and safety, and for implementing and evaluating the measures in this risk assessment.

OVERVIEW

System of Controls	Control Measures
Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that pupils (or staff) who have COVID-19 symptoms (or who test positive for COVID-19) do not attend school.	<i>The schools will continue to remind families (and staff) that individuals must not attend in these circumstances. Any individual who develops symptoms during the school day will be isolated from others and sent home as soon as possible to self-isolate and, where appropriate, be tested and/or seek medical advice.</i>
Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances.	<i>The schools will ask families, pupils and staff to wear face coverings correctly in accordance with age-specific recommendations/guidance from the government and/or director of public health.</i>

<p>Cleaning hands more often than usual (for at least 20 seconds with running water and soap, taking care to dry them thoroughly). Use of alcohol hand sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hand are covered.</p>	<p><i>The schools will continue to remind families, pupils and staff of the importance of regular and thorough hand washing. Additional alcohol hand sanitiser dispensers have been fitted across the schools and alcohol hand sanitiser dispensers will be in classrooms in use. Pupils' toilet and hand washing facilities will be regularly cleaned (and 'open air' hand washing sinks are in place in some schools).</i></p>
<p>Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.</p>	<p><i>The schools will continue to remind families, pupils and staff of the importance of this approach and provide appropriate resources on site. Parents/Carers of secondary age pupils will be asked to ensure that their child always carries disposable tissues as well as alcohol hand sanitiser. Additional and appropriate bins have been purchased for classrooms and other areas where required.</i></p>
<p>Enhanced cleaning - cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products.</p>	<p><i>The schools have increased the capacity of the cleaning teams to conduct frequent cleaning of key areas during and after the school day. Where possible, steps have been taken to reduce how often a surface might be touched; for example, some doors have been pinned back such that the door finger plate does not have to be touched.</i></p>
<p>Social distancing measures – limiting interactions.</p>	<p><i>Social distancing measures that limit interaction and reduce the risk of virus transmission without causing disruption to ordinary activities will continue as far as possible. Members of the school community will be reminded that maintaining social distancing reduces the risk of transmission.</i></p>

<p>Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.</p>	<p><i>The schools will implement measures to maximize ventilation in occupied spaces, e.g. keeping doors and windows open while maintaining a comfortable temperature.</i></p>
<p>Appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE).</p>	<p><i>PPE will be provided for staff where their role requires it, noting that PPE is only recommended in a very small number of cases, e.g. where an individual displays COVID-19 symptoms and a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained.</i></p>
<p>Engage with the NHS Track and Trace process. (From 18 July 2021 close contacts will be identified by NHS Track and Trace and not education settings.)</p>	<p><i>The schools will share information pertaining to the NHS Track and Trace process and promote its use, where appropriate, by all members of the school community.</i></p>
<p>Promote and engage in asymptomatic testing.</p>	<p><i>Where available, the schools will encourage all members of the community to take part in asymptomatic testing, e.g. the use of COVID-19 self-test kits.</i></p>
<p>Manage confirmed cases of COVID 19 amongst the school community</p>	<p><i>The schools have in place procedures for responding to any confirmed case of COVID-19 and would always contact the local health protection team such that they could conduct a risk assessment and provide advice should a threshold of concern be reached.</i></p>
<p>Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice</p>	<p><i>The schools would always follow the advice of the local health protection team which may recommend additional precautionary measures such as rapid LFD testing or short term attendance restrictions.</i></p>

In addition, the schools: will continue to limit visitors to the site; have invested in signage across the site to promote good hygiene and social distancing measures; and have updated appropriate procedures for all staff teams. We will keep all elements of our provision under continuous review.