

COVID-19: Outbreak Management Plan



**Simonside Primary
School**

Introduction

This plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19 and the [schools operational guidance](#), provided by the Department for Education (DfE).

We will only implement some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by our local authority (LA), directors of public health (DsPH), Public Health England (PHE) health protection team or the national government.

It may be necessary to implement these measures in the following circumstances, for example:

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school. Actions will be considered when either of the following thresholds are met:
 - There are 5 positive cases amongst pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely within a 10-day period
 - 10% of pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive within a 10-day period
- If COVID-19 infection rates in the community are extremely high, and other measures have failed to reduce transmission
- As part of a package of measures responding to a 'variant of concern' (VoC)
- To prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

Seeking public health advice

When one of the thresholds above is met, we will review the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures already in place.

We will also seek public health advice from a director of public health or health protection team. Donna Scott will be responsible for seeking this advice, and will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687) or emailing covid@southtyneside.gov.uk. An assessment of an outbreak will then be undertaken by working with public health who will advise on public health actions. This assessment will be made by taking into account the current position regarding COVID-19 in the population.

Public Health Actions may include:

a) Prevention measures:

Reviewing the current COVID-19 risk assessment and ensure that all prevention measures are fully implemented. Where needed advice will be sought from your health and safety advisors Stephen Bell or Joanne Woods

b) Reintroduction of Bubbles:

Bubbles may need to be reintroduced. The school community would return to Year Group Bubbles as in the previous academic year. Each Bubble would be contained to their year group area, playtime and lunchtimes would again become staggered as would the beginning and end of the school day. Assemblies would take place remotely.

c) Reintroduction of face coverings:

Face coverings may need to be reintroduced for staff in communal areas, visitors into schools and parents on the school grounds.

d) Testing:

Increased testing may be advised. This may include increased use of home testing by staff.

Shielding

We will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding, which would apply to those on the [shielded patient list \(SPL\)](#).

We will speak to individuals required to shield about additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning. Shielded pupils will be required to learn remotely from home. Shielded staff will be required to work from home.

Other measures

Parents, carers, pupils and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of control measures. This will be done via messages/ letters sent home via Seesaw and information on the school website once a decision has been made.

If recommended, we will limit:

- Residential educational visits
- Open days
- Transition or taster days
- Parents coming into school
- Live performances

Contact tracing

Contact tracing may be reinstated and in this situation South Tyneside Council will work with schools to ascertain the contacts of cases during their infectious period and will provide a letter for schools to share with identified contacts advising the contact to seek a PCR test and where not exempt, to self-isolate.

For primary school age pupils, the whole class could be considered contacts of a case.

Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort. If recommended, we will implement the measures in this section.

- **Eligibility to remain in school**

If some attendance restrictions are needed, all vulnerable children, children of critical workers, children in reception, year 1 and year 2 will still be allowed to attend.

If, by exception, attendance is restricted further, vulnerable children and children of critical workers will still be allowed to attend.

- **Education and support for pupils at home**

All other pupils will be required to stay at home. We will aim to deliver remote education that meets the same quality and quantity of education that pupils would receive in school, as outlined in our Remote Learning policy.

The school will continue to provide meals or lunch parcels for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines. If FSM vouchers are not made available for eligible pupils, packed lunches will be available for collection from school or delivered to homes if required. School will also ensure food parcels are delivered to targeted families.

- **Breakfast Club**

We will limit access to Breakfast Club during term time to those that need it most.

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

- **Safeguarding**

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

We will aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site wherever possible.

If our DSL (or deputy) can't be on site, they can be contacted remotely at elowe@simonsideprimary.org, rgibson@simonsideprimary.org or dscott@simonsideprimary.org

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

When vulnerable pupils are absent, we will:

- Speak to parents/carers and, where applicable, social workers and the local authority, to work out the reason for absence
- Encourage attendance
- Make sure vulnerable pupils can access appropriate education and support while at home
- Maintain contact, and check regularly that the pupil is able to access remote education provision