

# COVID-19: outbreak management plan

Biddick Hall Infant & Nursery School



<b>Approved by:</b>	Mrs A Willis	<b>Date:</b> 09/09/2021
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	September 2021	
<b>Next review due by:</b>	September 2022	

## **1. 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

## **2. 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. Andrea Willis, Head Teacher will be responsible for seeking this advice, and will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687) or contacting the South Tyneside Covid inbox in the first instance to direct any queries, as well as any information regarding any **suspected or confirmed cases** to [COVID@southtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:COVID@southtyneside.gov.uk) This inbox is monitored 7 days a week by the public health team.
- Public Health England (North East and Yorkshire Region) 0300 303 8596
- Claire Mawson, Senior Public Health Advanced Practitioner  
[claire.mawson@southtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:claire.mawson@southtyneside.gov.uk) 07776 992033 (part-time Monday-Wednesday am)
- Sam Start, Senior Public Health Advanced Practitioner  
[samantha.start@southtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:samantha.start@southtyneside.gov.uk) 07776997869 (Wednesday pm-Friday)

## **3. 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.

#### **4. Other measures**

Parents, carers, pupils and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of control measures. This will be done via letters sent home with pupils 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

If recommended, we will (re)introduce:

- Increased testing
- Class bubbles, to reduce mixing between groups
- Face coverings in communal areas and classrooms for staff and visitors (unless exempt)
- Limitations to the numbers of staff using communal areas and or closure of the staff room
- All meetings to take place via an online platform
- All staff meetings will be virtual

#### **5. Contact Tracing**

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

In our school the whole class would be considered contacts of a case.

#### **6. Attendance restrictions**

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

##### **6.1 Eligibility to remain in school**

If restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers

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

All other pupils will be required to stay at home and will receive remote education.

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.

This will be arranged via the local authority to ensure food parcels are delivered to those pupils eligible.

## **6.3 Wraparound care**

We will limit access to before and after-school activities and wraparound care during term time and the summer holidays to those that need it most.

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

## **6.4 Safeguarding**

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

There will always be a member of the safeguarding team on site, either the DSL or one of her deputies.

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