

MONKTON INFANTS SCHOOL



OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Updated: January 2022

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Note: this plan has been created in line with the latest Government advice regarding Outbreak Management Planning as set out in the DfE's 'Contingency Framework: education and childcare settings'(June 2021) and 'Schools COVID-19 operational guidance' (Updated January 2022) documents.

The Government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to stay open as much as possible during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Any restrictions on education would only be as a last resort and should only be initiated following a ministerial decision on a case-by-case basis.

OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN

THE AIM OF THIS PLAN

If our school or local area sees an extremely high prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection rates and existing measures in our community have failed to reduce this, the appropriate authorities will decide which additional measures to implement to help contain the spread. These measures may involve implementing a number of restrictions, which could include the partial closure of schools and childcare settings in our area. Measures may also be necessary to help minimise the impact from new coronavirus variants.

This Outbreak Management Plan, outlines how the school will operate if further restrictions are implemented. The school will work closely with the local health protection team (HPT) and implement provisions as advised by the team.

This is a live document that will be reviewed by the Headteacher, in conjunction with other key stakeholders, as and when the situation develops.

For the purpose of this Plan; an outbreak in school is defined as 2 or more confirmed cases associated with school within a 14-day period, or a sustained community transition.

If there were 5 or more positive cases in school (pupils / staff), where the cases have been in close proximity to each other, this would be reported to the DfE, the LA and Public Health England.

RESTRICTIONS TO ATTENDANCE

‘School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school’ (Schools Covid-19 operational guidance’ January 2022).

The Government has advised that all schools should continue to operate as normal and that all pupils should attend school unless required to self-isolate.

The DfE Contingency Framework is designed to act as a containment measure where:

- There is extremely high prevalence of coronavirus.
- Other measures have already been implemented.
- There is a need to minimise the impact from a new coronavirus variant.

Restrictive attendance measures, of the kind set out in the Contingency Framework, must not be implemented by schools without the explicit agreement of the DfE.

Restricting attendance in any form will only be used as a last resort, initiated following a ministerial decision. Where restrictions to attendance are implemented following Government advice, they will be kept to a minimum, allowing for the maximum number of pupils to attend education; however, in all circumstances, priority will be given to vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers to attend full time.

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As part of their outbreak management responsibilities, LAs, Directors of Public Health, and HPTs may advise individual settings or a cluster of closely linked settings to limit attendance in one of the ways described in this section.

Where LAs judge that wider containment action is needed and wish to limit attendance within an area, they will work with their Regional Partnership Team to escalate a proposal to the central Local Action Committee command structure.

Children in Nursery: If the DfE Contingency Framework is implemented, the setting will continue to allow all children to attend on-site provision.

Where advised by the DfE, in line with the available evidence, the setting will only allow the on-site attendance of vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. The setting will only limit attendance if it is directed to do so by the DfE. If attendance is limited, remote learning will be delivered to children who remain at home, in line with the Pupil Remote Learning Policy.

Children in School: Unless advised otherwise, the school will allow all pupils to attend. If the DfE Contingency Framework is implemented, the school will only allow the following pupils to attend on-site provision:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers
- Pupils in Reception and Years 1 and 2, where advised by the DfE

High-quality remote education will be provided for all pupils not in attendance, in line with the Pupil Remote Learning Policy.

The school will lift restrictions as soon as it is advised by the Government that it is appropriate to do so.

INFECTIOIN PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The school's Infection Control Policy will continue to be adhered to – this policy meets the requirements set out in the DfE's system of controls.

Control Measures in School:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19

Any member of the school community who displays symptoms of coronavirus will be required to self-isolate and encouraged to get a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. Tests can be booked online or ordered by telephone via NHS 119. Critical workers, including school staff, have priority access to testing.

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Rapid-result lateral flow device (LFD) testing kits are available in school for all staff to access as required. If a positive result is received, a PCR test is required and the individual must self-isolate until the result is known.

If a pupil develops symptoms of coronavirus while on site, they will be taken to a designated isolation area while they wait to be collected. The pupil will be accompanied by a First Aider while they await collection. If the First Aider is unable to socially distance, e.g. due to the pupil's age or needs, they will wear PPE.

After the pupil has left the premises, any areas they were in will be cleaned. The pupil's parents will be encouraged to get their child tested with a confirmatory PCR test as soon as possible. The pupil will be required to self-isolate for at least 10 days – remote education will be arranged for them immediately.

If a staff member develops symptoms while on site, they will be directed to go home immediately to self-isolate and to get a PCR test. Cover arrangements will be put in place.

Any staff members or pupils who have been in close contact with a symptomatic individual at school will not need to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves. From 16 August 2021, fully vaccinated adults, and pupils under the age of 18 who have been identified as close contacts of a positive case via the NHS Test and Trace service will not need to self-isolate unless advised by a healthcare professional.

Any fully vaccinated staff members, and any pupils who come into close contact with a symptomatic individual outside of school (e.g. parent/ partner) are not required to self-isolate and may continue to attend school, provided that they undertake an LFD test every day for seven days. If the result is positive they must stay away from school and arrange a PCR test.

Unvaccinated adults and adults who have only had one dose of the vaccine will need to continue to follow the rules on self-isolation if they have been identified as a close contact of a positive case.

If an outbreak is identified in school, the school will contact the DfE Helpline on 0800 046 8687 and select Option 1, where a team of NHS advisers will decide what action is needed based on the latest public health advice. The school will follow the expert advice, which could include working with the local HPT if the situation is escalated by the advisers.

Any identified close contacts at school, who do not fulfil the criteria outlined in this section of the Outbreak Management Plan from 16 August – will be sent home to self-isolate for 10 days and encouraged to get a PCR test. If more individuals test positive, the school will follow advice from the local HPT, which may include requiring more people to self-isolate.

As the result of an outbreak during step 4 of the coronavirus recovery roadmap, a temporary requirement could be implemented for staff to resume wearing face coverings at times where they are likely to come into contact with parents/ visitors to school. This may include face coverings being reintroduced in communal areas for members of staff. The school may also be required to reintroduce the use of bubbles in order to resume social distancing and limit the transmission of coronavirus. The school will adhere to any conditions set out by the local HPT.

The school will notify Ofsted of any confirmed outbreaks, within 14 days, be that a child or staff member, through the usual notification channels. Ofsted will also be notified if the school is advised to close as a result.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

If restrictions to attendance are required, the school will offer immediate access to high-quality remote education for all pupils who are required to remain at home. All remote learning will be delivered in line with the school's Pupil Remote Learning Policy.

Teachers will ensure lessons are suitable to the class group's age and ability, inclusive for all pupils, and will be adapted, where necessary, to account for the needs of disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND.

When teaching pupils who are working remotely, teachers will:

- Set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day.
- Deliver a planned, coherent and well-sequenced curriculum which allows skills to be built incrementally.
- Provide frequent, clear explanations of new content through high-quality curriculum resources, including through educational videos.
- Assess progress by using questions and other suitable tasks and use assessment to ensure teaching is responsive to pupils' needs and addresses any critical gaps in pupils' knowledge.
- Provide opportunities for interactivity, e.g. questioning and reflective discussion.
- Provide scaffolded practice and opportunities to apply new knowledge.
- Enable pupils to receive timely and frequent feedback on how to progress, using digitally-facilitated or whole-class feedback where appropriate.
- Plan a programme that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school, ideally including daily contact with teachers.

Where advised during a local outbreak, further restrictions may be enforced with regards to certain musical and drama activities in school, e.g. singing, to help reduce the risk of transmitting coronavirus. Restrictions may also be reintroduced to contact and indoor sports. The school will follow the advice provided by the local HPT.

Restrictions during a local outbreak will inevitably impact on any scheduled Parents' Evenings or performances in school; consequently, such events may be cancelled with minimal notice. The school will strive to offer alternatives e.g. a written progress report or a telephone consultation/ a recording of the show where possible.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL

- The Headteacher will work with the LA to ensure pupils only return to school when it is safe for them to do so. Prior to the return of more pupils and staff, all relevant risk assessments will be reviewed.
- It may be necessary to re-introduce class/ year group 'bubbles' for a temporary period to reduce chance of infection between children.
- Where advised to do so by a Director of Public Health and/or the local HPT, the school may encourage staff to undertake LFD tests at home prior to their return to school and/or for a

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period of time following their return. The school will continue to recognise that testing is voluntary.

- The Headteacher will inform staff, pupils and parents, prior to the return to school, whether any further restrictions, such as the use of bubbles and face coverings, have been resumed.
- After a period of self-isolation, or the relaxation of restrictions, the Headteacher will inform parents when their child will return to school.
- The Headteacher will listen to all concerns that parents may have about their child returning to school and will advise them of the measures in place to ensure the safety of their child.

SAFEGUARDING

Ensuring safeguarding arrangements remain effective during periods of restricted attendance is a key priority. The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy includes provisions for keeping pupils safe during the coronavirus pandemic, both at home and in school – we will continue to follow these procedures for pupils who remain at home, where appropriate, until all pupils are able to return to school.

We will continue to ensure that:

- The best interests of pupils always come first.
- If anyone in the school has a safeguarding concern about a pupil, they act immediately.
- A DSL or deputy DSL is always available.
- Pupils who remain at home are protected when they are online.

The Headteacher will take responsibility for coordinating safeguarding at all times.

BREAKFAST CLUB

This will continue to be provided to all children; however, some restrictions to seating etc. may need to be re-introduced.

LUNCH PROVISION

A free lunch will continue to be provided for all pupils attending school; however restrictions may be re-introduced during the lunchtime

A packed lunch will be available daily, for collection, for all eligible pupils who are not attending school, where they:

- Are self-isolating.
- Have had symptoms or have tested positive.
- Are not attending due to the implementation of local restrictions advised by the Government.

COMMUNICAITON

The school will continue to communicate with parents/ carers via 'Class Dojo', including:

- Opening arrangements.

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- Access for specific targeted groups where applicable, such as certain year groups, vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers.
- Any reviews of the school's protective measures as part of risk assessments.
- The arrangements for remote working.

All relevant stakeholders will be kept up-to-date with the circumstances of any imposed restrictions and how these affect the school as the situation develops.

If any member of the school community wishes to discuss any concerns relating to the school's provision during this period, they should contact the Headteacher in the first instance.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

This plan will be reviewed continually, by the Headteacher, in line with guidance from the Government and Public Health England (PHE). Any changes to the plan will be communicated to all relevant stakeholders as soon as possible.