

MONKTON INFANTS SCHOOL



Coronavirus (COVID-19): Emergency Plan (*Living with COVID*)

Signed Chair of Trustees:

Signed Headteacher:

Last Review:

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Please note: this plan has been created in line with the latest government advice regarding emergency planning as set out in the DfE's 'Emergency Planning and Response for Education, Childcare, and Children's Social Care Settings' document. The government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to operate as normally as possible as we learn to live with coronavirus (COVID-19), but measures affecting education may be necessary in some circumstances.

LIVING WITH COVID

AIM OF THIS PLAN

The main objective of this plan is to minimise the amount, and length, of any disruption to education, and to maximise the number of children who are in face-to-face provision. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all pupils remains of paramount importance at all times.

TESTING AND SELF-ISOLATION

Free universal testing is no longer available and schools are unable to distribute LFD tests to staff.

The new isolation guidance for symptomatic children and adults is as follows:

- **Adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection**, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature
- **Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result** should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice is 3 days
- **Children who are unwell and have a high temperature** should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, or childcare, when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.

Schools are no longer required to report cases of suspected or confirmed Covid (by PCR or LFD) to the Health Protection Team or to the Local Authority.

CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION

Where a member of staff is unable to attend school, appropriate supply cover will be sought through the preferred supply agencies. If supply cover is not available, the following may be considered:

- HLTA will be deployed to teach in the class
- Groups/ classes may be brought together with teachers and support staff working together

Any modifications to class arrangements will be in line with the regulations which limit class size to 30 children per teacher.

THRESHOLDS FOR ADDITIONAL MEASURES

While there is not a specific threshold imposed by the Government, the following thresholds will be used as an indication of when to seek public health advice, whichever is reached first:

- A higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of staff or pupil absences due to coronavirus infection
- Evidence of severe disease due to coronavirus, for example if a pupil or staff member is admitted to hospital due to coronavirus

- A cluster of cases where there are concerns about the health needs of vulnerable staff or pupils within the affected group

When a threshold is reached, the school will review and reinforce the hygiene and ventilation measures already in place. The school will also consider seeking additional public health advice, either by phoning the DfE helpline on 0800 046 8687 and selecting option 1 or in line with other local arrangements. The school will also refer to the government's [contingency framework](#) for further information.

A director of public health (DPH) or local HPT may provide the school with advice that reflects the local situation. If they judge that additional action should be taken, they might advise the school take on some or all of the extra measures described in the government's contingency framework.

RESTRICTIONS TO ATTENDANCE

- The government has advised that all schools should continue to operate as normal and that all pupils should attend school.
- Restricting attendance in any form will only be used as a last resort and as a short-term measure in extreme cases of operational disruption to staffing, or where other recommended measures have not mitigated against risks to face-to-face education.
- Where restrictions to attendance are implemented following advice from the appropriate authorities, 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, additionally, 3-4 year olds will also be a priority.
- If the school is advised to restrict attendance, the DfE may advise on any other groups of pupils that should be prioritised in relation to receiving face-to-face education.
- Unless advised otherwise, the school will allow all pupils to attend. If attendance restrictions are advised, the school will follow any requirements on restricting attendance, which includes prioritising the attendance of vulnerable pupils, the children of critical workers, and other groups as advised by the DfE. Staff, pupils and parents will be informed immediately following any changes to pupil attendance.
- If attendance restrictions are implemented, pupils who are not eligible to attend face-to-face provision will be provided with remote education in line with the Remote Education Policy.
- Where attendance restrictions are implemented, the Headteacher will determine the workforce required on-site to deliver face-to-face education and will decide whether some staff can work from home. The school's Coronavirus (COVID-19): Risk Assessment for Schools sets out the measures the school has in place to keep staff safe at school.
- The school will lift restrictions as soon as it is advised by the appropriate authority that it is appropriate to do so.

REMOTE LEARNING

Remote learning will be provided to pupils if:

- Their attendance at school has been temporarily restricted.

All remote learning will be delivered in line with the school's Remote Education Policy.

In all cases, on-site provision should be retained for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers, where they are able to attend. If all on-site provision must temporarily stop in line with public health advice, the school will discuss alternative arrangements for vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers with the LA.

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- The school's Infection Control Policy will continue to be adhered to, alongside measures outlined in the school's Coronavirus (COVID-19): Risk Assessment for Schools.
- If the school is advised to implement additional measures, it will ensure the relevant documentation is updated to reflect these measures.

FACE COVERINGS

- Staff and adult visitors may be advised to wear face coverings in communal areas as a temporary measure.
- Exempt individuals will not be required to wear face coverings if this measure is introduced.
- If face covering advice is reintroduced, this will be kept under regular review by the Headteacher and lifted as soon as possible.

SHIELDING

The government has stated that individuals previously considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) will not be advised to shield again. Where additional measures are required in line with this plan, individuals at high risk of coronavirus will be asked by the school to consider advice from their health professional on whether additional precautions are suitable for them.

SAFEGUARDING

Ensuring safeguarding arrangements remain effective during periods of restricted attendance is a key priority.

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 during work hours to answer any concerns.
- Unsuitable individuals are not permitted to work with pupils or come into contact with pupils whilst on site.
- Pupils who remain at home are supported to be kept safe when they are online.

A trained DSL or deputy will remain on-site where possible. Where this is not possible, e.g. they are required to self-isolate, the school will ensure that the DSL or deputy, or a DSL or deputy from another school, are available to contact at all times. In addition, the Headteacher will take responsibility for coordinating safeguarding on-site during this time.

VUNERABLE PUPILS

Where vulnerable pupils are absent from school, the school will:

- Follow up with the pupil's parent or carer about the reason for their absence and discuss any concerns.
- Encourage the pupil to attend school, particularly where the pupil's social worker agrees that they should attend.
- Focus discussions on the welfare of the pupil and ensure they can access appropriate education and support while they are at home.
- Put procedures in place to maintain contact with the pupil.

The school will work with the pupils' social workers where appropriate.

WELLBEING AND SUPPORT

Some children and adults may experience a variety of emotions in response to changes implemented in school during a period of unrest. Support will be provided in school or through referral to external support agencies

SCHOOL TRIPS

If attendance restrictions are in place at the school, all school trips planned for this period will be cancelled. The Headteacher will determine whether it is appropriate and safe to conduct a school trip once attendance restrictions are removed.

COMMUNICATION

The school will communicate the plan for addressing any imposed restrictions with parents/ carers, including in relation to:

- Opening arrangements.
- 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 our risk assessments.
- The arrangements for remote working.

For each control measure that the school implements as part of the plan, the Headteacher will ensure appropriate measures are in place to communicate the changes to staff, pupils and parents.

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.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

- This plan will be reviewed continually, by the Headteacher, in line with guidance from the government.
- Any changes to the plan will be communicated to all relevant stakeholders as soon as possible.