

Getting Back to Normal

Our school always seeks to create an environment with safe boundaries, good relationships and empowered learning, with hope at the centre. We have done this throughout the pandemic. Sometimes, we had to emphasise safety at the expense of freedoms, related to learning in the best possible way. We can start to redress the balance: still being safe but with much more flexibility and emphasis on empowered learning.

These updates include our response to the most recent Schools Covid-19 Operational Guidance (July 2021) and the Contingency Framework (updated 25 June 2021).

The guidance emphasises the following control measures:

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

We will tackle each of the points in turn after a few points of principle.

Balancing and Minimising Risk with Providing a Good Educational Experience

The vaccine programme has resulted in a reduction in the link between becoming ill with coronavirus, hospitalisation and death. This means we can function more normally with some precautions. These precautions will help reduce the impact of all respiratory infections, such as flu, as well as coronavirus.

Where options exist we have erred on the side of caution and minimal risk.

1. Good hygiene for everyone

On arrival in school proceed to wash your hands before doing anything else. Wash them

will find in your room. Please remind students to wash their hands at the start of break and lunch or after using the toilet. There are bins and tissues in every room to facilitate respiratory hygiene. Please ensure that students place any used tissues into the lidded bins provided.

2. Maintain appropriate cleaning routines

We are avoiding touching shared surfaces as much as possible by propping doors open. All shared surfaces, particularly toilets, are cleaned frequently. Wipes will be available to clean desks or resources when required. Enhanced cleaning schedule remains in place.

3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated

Good ventilation reduces the concentration of the virus in the air, which reduces the risk from airborne transmission.

Please keep your classroom door open. Doors to the outside and the stairwells are kept open. Please contact the site manager if a doorstopper is missing. Please check that your classroom window is open before you teach in these buildings.

In addition, we will ensure that the majority of students go outside during break and lunch times, to maximise socialising in fresh air.

4. Follow Public Health guidance on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19

A requirement that all people who are ill stay at home

If you have any of these three coronavirus symptoms (**high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of or change in sense of smell or taste**), NHS guidance is to stay off school and book a test.

APS guidance is based on the current research and the World Health Organisation information. With symptoms of **headache, gastrointestinal symptoms** (tummy upset, abdominal cramps, off food, nausea, diarrhoea), **sore throat** and **runny nose**

Staff should lead by example, and follow the one-way system during changeover/ transition times. Before/after school and during lesson time, staff may use any stairwell as up or down.

Outbreak Management Plan Overview

As we move from pandemic to endemic, we may continue to experience coronavirus cases in school. In liaison with our Local Authority, Director of Public Health, and DfE Regional Schools Commissioner, we can put in place actions that manage transmission at the same time as

If our region is asked to enable clinically extremely vulnerable staff to work from home, we will ensure they are able to do their job, e.g. by Google Classrooms teaching.

Safeguarding

We will utilise the same safeguarding practices we did during recent periods of remote learning, asking staff to call and check-in with students daily and log conversations and any concerns. Students who are particularly at risk and not attending on site learning, will be followed up by contact with our Welfare Officer and Deputy DSL. Wherever possible, vulnerable students will be encouraged to attend on site during periods of restricted attendance.