

SOCIAL DISTANCING AND INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

- in line with operational guidance that applies from 2 Jan. '21

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This policy statement outlines the academy's approach to social distancing and infection control measures, in the context of the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, incorporating guidance published by the Government and relevant public health organisations.

On Mon. 22 Feb. '21, the Prime Minister announced details of the Government's 'roadmap out of lockdown'. As a result of the success of the vaccination programme and the public's response to the measures imposed, a view was taken that the relevant data indicated that restrictions could begin to be lifted, albeit in a staged way, with the proviso that the 'roadmap' would be subject to change, based on emerging data.

Ensuring that children returned to school for face-to-face education was identified as a top priority (Stage 1) action and it was decided that all students should return, during the week commencing 8 Mar. '21. For secondary age students, this would be done in conjunction with three initial lateral flow tests, conducted on site, followed by a programme of twice-weekly home testing (from 15 Mar., at the earliest), in addition to regular home testing for all teachers, measures that would aim to reduce the chance of the virus spreading in schools.

As the Government's vaccination programme 'rolled out', there was an increasing number of people who had received either one or two courses of the vaccine and schools were asked to positively promote the Government's vaccination programme.

In Sep. '21, as the country moved to Stage 4 of the 'roadmap', the Government's response moved away from some of the more stringent restrictions on people's lives, towards advising them on how to protect themselves, and others, alongside some targeted interventions to reduce risk. As COVID-19 became considered as a virus with which we learned to live, it was decided that the disruption to students' learning must be reduced, particularly as the direct clinical risks to children were identified as extremely low and every adult had, by then, been offered a first vaccine and an opportunity for two doses by mid-September.

The government continues to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. The Prime Minister announced, on 27 Nov. '21, the temporary introduction of new measures, as a result of the Omicron variant, and, on 8 Dec. '21, that Plan B (set out in the autumn and winter plan 2021) was being enacted. The advice remains

subject to change as the situation develops. COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative is to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education. Our priority is for you to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils.

Schools are expected to continue to reduce the risk of transmission through the measures that are put in place. Whilst doing so, they are also expected to offer a broad and effective curriculum. This risk assessment has been designed to respond directly to, and incorporate securely, the Government's system of controls, as follows:

PREVENTION:

Always:

- Ensure that anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms, or who lives with someone with symptoms, stays at home
- Use face coverings, as recommended
- Clean hands thoroughly and regularly
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting 'catch it, bin it, kill it'
- Maintain enhanced cleaning arrangements
- Minimise contact across the site and maintain social distancing, wherever possible
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Promote, and engage, in asymptomatic testing

In specific circumstances:

- Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

RESPONSE TO ANY INFECTION:

Always:

- Promote, and engage with, the NHS 'Test and Trace' programme
- Manage and report confirmed cases amongst the school community
- Follow local health protection team advice to contain any outbreak

This policy supports the academy's revised **COVID-19 Risk Assessment and Action Plan**. It outlines the steps that will be taken to mitigate the risk of infection spreading and to keep our school community safe. To support our decision-making, parents/carers and staff members are also consulted and we will also be updating the risk assessment, this policy and associated procedures on a continuous basis, in response to new information and guidance.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy has due regard to relevant legislation and guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

[GOV.UK: Coronavirus Act 2020](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-act-2020)

[DfE, 15 Dec.'21: Managing coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in education and childcare settings](#)

[DfE, 5 Jan. '22: Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

The policy operates in accordance with the following school policies, procedures and checklists:

- COVID-19 Risk Assessment and Action Plan
- Classroom Working Protocol (COVID-19)
- Site Cleaning Schedule (COVID-19)
- Site Maintenance Checklist (COVID-19)
- Transport to and from School Risk Assessment (COVID-19)
- Fire Evacuation Procedure (COVID-19)
- Behaviour Policy Addendum (COVID-19)
- Safeguarding Policy Addendum (COVID-19)

(These are amended to accommodate the measures in the revised risk assessment and policy documents)

RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk assessment has been revised to establish the level of risk, both before and after mitigation, and to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to protect students and staff. It covers the following key areas:

- Safety of the school premises
- Cleaning measures, infection control and the ability to implement protective measures, e.g. social distancing
- Supporting the wellbeing of students and staff (including, in particular, more vulnerable members of the school community)
- Supporting students' learning

- Catering for students with special needs and disabilities
- Safeguarding
- Transport arrangements
- Asymptomatic testing arrangements
- Communication of plans and procedures and required training

Minimising the risk to vulnerable people

The greater level of risk to vulnerable people is considered carefully in the **COVID-19 Risk Assessment and Action Plan**.

Following expert clinical advice and the successful rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine programme, people previously considered to be particularly vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), and high or higher-risk are not being advised to shield again. Children and young people who were previously identified as being in one of these groups, are advised to continue to follow the guidance contained in [Coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread](#).

Children and young people previously considered CEV should attend school and should follow the same COVID-19 guidance as the rest of the population. In some circumstances, a child or young person may have received personal advice from their specialist or clinician on additional precautions to take and they should continue to follow that advice.

Where a student lives with a clinically extremely vulnerable person, they should attend school. (The DfE guidance is very clear on this). It is also the case that staff in this position are expected to attend. Where there are concerns, support will be provided and, where possible, measures will be taken.

Clinically vulnerable students are expected to attend school. Where parents/carers are concerned and significant risk factors are identified, the school will listen to these concerns and provide reassurance regarding the measures that are being implemented.

Black and minority ethnic people are at a statistically greater risk of contracting the virus and the school's position is that this should be considered in the same way as the approach for clinically vulnerable people.

Minimising contact with people who are symptomatic

Students, parents/carers, visitors (inc. suppliers) and staff must not come onto the site (and should self-isolate) if:

- they are displaying any symptoms;
- they have tested positive in the appropriate time period (see below);
- they are required to quarantine

They must immediately self-isolate and get tested. Where they take a PCR test and record a positive result, they should self-isolate for 7 days. They may take LFD tests on

days 6 and 7 of their self-isolation period and, where, they receive two negative results, and do not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation period and return to the school setting on day 8. (The two tests must be taken 24 hours apart). Anyone else must complete 10 full days of self-isolation.

Note that, from 11 Jan. '22, confirmatory PCR tests, following a positive LFD test result, are to be temporarily suspended. This will mean that anyone receiving a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

Even where someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing once they have completed the isolation period for their prior infection.

People who are aged 18 years 6 months or over and are not fully vaccinated, and who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, are legally required to stay at home and self-isolate.

People who are fully vaccinated, or children aged between 5 years old and 18 years, 6 months old, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take a LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result, or develop symptoms at any time.

OTHER SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES

A variety of linked social distancing measures have been put in place to support the safety of the school's on-site provision.

Travel to, and from, school

Parents/carers are asked to encourage their children to walk or cycle, where possible. Arrangements are in place for students to store their cycles securely. We do not allow the use of, or storage of, e-scooters on the school site.

Where students and staff use public transport to travel to school, they should follow closely government advice: [DfT, 21 Dec. '21: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safer travel guidance for passengers](#)

Parents dropping off students should use the main car park and stay in their cars. The main car park is also used by staff, visitors and contractors.

School-organised home-to-school transport – using our transport providers and/or our own vehicles – have all necessary safety measures in place (including cleaning vehicles thoroughly between trips) as detailed in the **Transport to and from School Risk Assessment (COVID-19)**. Students use hand sanitiser on boarding and, consistent with expectations for travelling on public transport, students, staff and drivers wear a face mask.

There are hand sanitiser stations at each entrance/exit to the school and students are expected to use these as they enter and leave the school.

Movement around the site

A one-way system is in place between periods 1 and 2 and between periods 3 and 4 – to support social distancing.

Where they need to move rooms, teachers and TAs need to move promptly to lessons (to minimise queuing in corridors) and so lesson changeover bells have been re-introduced at times when both students and staff will be moving. TAs will move to their next classroom five minutes before the end of the lesson and then help to supervise students' entry to the room.

The use of lifts is avoided, where possible. Where lifts need to be used for particular students/staff, specific risk assessments are put in place and followed.

Grouping

Students are kept, as far as possible, in year group 'zones', during break/lunch times.

At the end of the break and lunch-time periods, students line up in their tutor groups and their entry into the school buildings is controlled in order to minimise congestion in school corridors. Students are brought directly into classrooms, rather than lining up in corridors.

When weather is poor, they spend break and/or lunch periods in their classrooms.

Face coverings

Face coverings protect the wearer, and others, against the spread of infection. The government now recommends that all students aged Year 7 and above should wear face coverings both around the school site (indoors) and in classrooms.

Students will also continue to wear face coverings on public and school transport.

Teachers need not wear a face covering in the classroom, but are asked to wear them in other communal areas.

Examination candidates and invigilators are not required to wear face coverings during exams and assessments (including mock exams). They are only required to wear them on arrival and departure. Both candidates and invigilators may wear face coverings if they wish to do so. For vocational and technical qualifications, where the exam or assessment may require more interaction with an invigilator or others, the school can recommend that face coverings are worn, if this is deemed appropriate].

Classrooms

A revised **Classroom Working Protocol (COVID-19)** is in place.

Where necessary, classrooms are reorganised, so that students are not facing each other. Students are asked to wear face coverings inside school buildings, including lessons (other than for examinations and most assessments).

Teachers will take reasonable steps to achieve social distancing, where appropriate and possible, but should use their own judgement – there is no longer a 2 m social distancing stipulation.

TAs will also use their judgement with regard to their distance from both students and the teacher. As appropriate, well-judged choices should be made regarding the positioning of specific students – to facilitate easier access.

Anyone entering the room during a lesson (e.g. to provide technical support) should also consider their relative positioning in relation to both students and other staff.

Windows are left open (for ventilation). [It will be therefore be advisable to wear warm clothing]. Some judgement can be exercised in how wide to open a window in a given situation. Where opening windows results in an uncomfortably cold working environment, coats can be worn and/or other sources of heating can be used. Also, where possible (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding issues), doors are propped open - to limit the use of door handles and improve ventilation. Air conditioning can be used in rooms that have it, as long as this is on the 'fresh air' setting.

Classrooms should be tidy and uncluttered, with any unnecessary items removed (where there is space to store them elsewhere).

Where possible, teachers/TAs should distribute resources before the lesson starts (or have these available for students to collect as they come in).

Students enter classrooms as promptly as possible, to avoid congestion in corridors. At the end of a lesson, there is a controlled and orderly exit from the room.

Students and teachers / TAs use hand sanitiser on entry to the room.

Performing Arts

Any singing, wind and brass instrument playing must be undertaken in line with the guidance provided by the DCMS for professionals and non-professionals.

Hands must be washed/sanitised before, and after, handling equipment, especially when it is being used by more than one person. Sharing equipment should be avoided, wherever possible. As appropriate, name labels should be placed on equipment to help identify the designated user. If instruments and equipment have to be shared, they should be disinfected regularly (including any packing cases, handles, props, chairs, microphones and music stands) and always between users in different year group 'bubbles', following government guidance on cleaning and

handling equipment. Where possible, instruments should be cleaned by the students playing them.

Background, or accompanying, music should be kept down to levels that do not encourage teachers, or other performers, to raise their voices unduly. Microphones can be used to reduce the need for shouting, or prolonged periods of loud speaking or singing. However, where possible, it is best not to share microphones. If they are shared, the guidance on handling equipment and instruments must be followed. In drama, where possible, teacher presentations are pre-recorded – to avoid the need for voice projection.

Instrumental one-to-one and small group lessons are subject to a specific approved risk assessment being in place.

The handling of music scores, parts and scripts is limited to the individual using them. For KS3 drama groups, scripts are projected - to avoid paper scripts being passed around.

KS3 drama lessons are planned to involve reduced student movement and more teacher / student modelling. Where possible, performing is stylised in a front-facing manner. Scenes are staged with increased social distancing (as if they were acted out on a large stage).

Space is maximised by taking away any unnecessary furniture, storage, props etc. Students' bags are placed along the length of the room to avoid 'piling' and support social distancing.

For good ventilation, the fire door in the Drama Studio is kept closed and the door to the English hub is kept open.

PE and Sports

Wherever possible, activities take place outside. Any indoor activity takes place in a well-ventilated, large space and careful consideration is given to the nature of the activity. Students do not wear face masks when undertaking physical activity.

The PE curriculum is delivered in accordance with: [Guidance on coronavirus \(COVID-19\) measures for grassroots sport participants, providers and facility operators](#)

Design and Technology

The curriculum is adapted, so that the use of electrical machinery that relies on air extraction is avoided.

The use of any hand tools that may require close supervision for safe use, are avoided, or else teachers / TAs use additional PPE for these sessions – to enable safe circulation and closer supervision.

(Given the relative positioning of the workshops) students are organised and brought into / out of workshops in an order that avoids students from different year groups coming into close contact with each other.

Risk assessment for seating around workbenches establishes suitable arrangements / configuration.

Science

Risk assessment for rooms with central seating pods establishes suitable arrangements / configuration.

Remote Learning

Where students are working at home, in the short term they will be directed to relevant Oak National Academy resources. In the longer term, where students are self-isolating for a 10-day period, where possible they will be invited to join 'live' classroom-based lessons via Teams. On other occasions, they will be directed to other targeted digital and recorded teaching and resources that align with the curriculum taught in the classroom.

Library

Hand sanitiser is used on entrance to the library.

Students return their books to a large plastic box, which is kept safely for 72 hours before scanning books back in and returning them to the shelves. Book collection boxes are also placed in form rooms, with the same hygiene measures applied. [A 'click and collect' service is also considered.]

Tables are organized to support social distancing and without 'face to face' positioning.

Measures are in place to support social distancing from library staff – in the form of a protective screen.

Use of toilet facilities

Toilet facilities are kept stocked up with soap and hot water is readily available. This is checked regularly throughout the day (as defined by the **Site Maintenance Checklist (COVID-19)**).

The toilets are cleaned regularly throughout the day by cleaning staff, consistent with [PHE, 19 Jul. '20: COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings outside the home](#) and as specified in the **Site Cleaning Schedule (COVID-19)**. This includes cleaning toilets between each of the two break periods and between each of the two lunch periods.

Toilet areas are adequately ventilated.

Expectations regarding the use of toilets, and related hygiene measures, are reinforced through the use of posters. The use of toilet facilities during the break period is supervised.

Students are generally expected not to use the toilets during the lesson periods (unless they have a medical 'toilet pass').

Water fountains are provided to enable students to fill up water bottles (so that these can be used instead of taps/sinks).

Staff break / work areas

Departmental work areas and office spaces are often not large enough to accommodate the full team of staff - with appropriate social distancing measures in place. Teaching staff may, therefore, need to use vacant classrooms as working spaces and teams of staff may also need to meet in classrooms.

The Staff Room is available for staff use and has been reorganised to support social distancing.

Support staff with operational challenges (to achieve social distancing) in their work spaces should discuss these with the Business Manager, who will consider a range of measures that could include: avoiding face-to-face positioning; protective screens; temporary relocation for some; and/or staggered working hours.

Hand sanitisers and cleaning products are available in all office areas.

Wherever possible, visits to offices (from colleagues based elsewhere and other visitors) should be avoided. Contact should be made by telephone and email, wherever possible. Where colleagues do visit an office, they should make efforts to socially distance.

Visitors

Entry to the Reception Area is controlled. Protective screens are installed around the Reception desk and entry into the Reception Area is prevented for any unauthorised visitors. The entrance foyer area (especially door handles) is cleaned regularly.

Access points and protection in relation to visitors are reviewed, with times for contractors arranged in such a way that the number on site at any one time is minimised. Where possible, visits are arranged outside of the school day (i.e. students' hours).

A Health Declaration Check is completed (verbally) with each authorised visitor, as a condition of entrance into the school building.

Visitors sanitise their hands, on entry and exit, and are briefed on Health and Safety protocols, consistent with this policy. Where possible, Health and Safety information is provided in advance of the visit and checked/reinforced on arrival.

For any visitors working closely with students (e.g. specialist support agencies for SEND students), as agreed and risk assessed, PPE is made available (in addition to social distancing measures), as appropriate.

Assemblies / large meetings

Assemblies, for year groups (and organised with forms seated together) have been reintroduced. Sensible social distancing should be observed for any small on-site meetings.

Extra-curricular activities

Educational trips and visits will need to be authorised by the Head of School (taking into account the uncertainty of the situation and 'lost learning') and will need careful planning, with rigorous risk assessments in place.

Student behaviour

A **Behaviour Policy Addendum (COVID-19)** is in place, outlining how high expectations for the safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community are maintained through the management of students' behaviour. This is communicated clearly to staff, parents/carers and students and action is taken as required.

The approach to the management of student behavior, in these circumstances, is compassionate and proportionate, supporting students who may exhibit problematic behaviours as a response to trauma that they may have experienced during 'lockdown'. Nevertheless, no student can be allowed to create an unsafe environment for themselves and others.

Students are told that they must not touch staff and should keep their distance. Where possible, they should also avoid contact with their peers.

Uniform

Students are expected to attend in full school uniform.

Student attendance

Students should attend school.

Where a clinically extremely vulnerable young person is under the care of a specialist health professional, a course of action is determined in conjunction with this medical advice. This will generally enable the student to attend school, with modifications in place.

Supporting and safeguarding students

We aim to ensure that students' emotional needs are well supported, and will provide pastoral/counselling support, as required.

The Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) programme gives timely coverage of issues relating to mental health and wellbeing. Additional sessions are also provided to highlight important safe working issues in relation to online working.

We will continue, and enhance, programmes to support vulnerable students with rebuilding friendships, social engagement and equipping students to respond to issues relating to COVID-19.

Staff should be alert to any safeguarding concerns and follow procedure, in line with the Safeguarding Policy and **Safeguarding Policy Addendum (COVID-19)**.

The SENCO reviews EHC plans and linked risk assessments to determine what support will be needed for individuals to return to school under this model of provision. Students' views, the views of parents/ carers and, as appropriate, specialist views will be taken into account.

Supporting and safeguarding staff

We encourage staff to give an early indication of specific pressures / difficulties and issues concerning work-life balance, directly to the Business Manager or Head of School. Line managers are also consulted, as appropriate, regarding staff deployment and welfare issues. A counselling support service is also available to staff. Furthermore, colleagues are able to access the [Education Support Partnership](#) - as a further/alternative source of support and guidance.

Where colleagues have concerns about coming onto the school site, their views will be taken seriously, together with any medical advice. An Occupational Health Service referral is made, as appropriate. [The duty to protect the mental, as well as physical, health of staff is recognised and the approach outlined above reflects this].

Staff are given guidance in how to ensure safe online teaching and learning practice.

Fire safety

Revised arrangements are in place. These are outlined in the **Fire Safety Evacuation Procedure (COVID-19)**.

OTHER INFECTION CONTROL MEASURES

Robust infection control measures are in place - in the interests of the safety of the school community. The following measures are implemented:

Cleaning hands frequently

All site users are encouraged to wash hands regularly and thoroughly (for 20 seconds at a time with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly) and/or to use hand sanitiser, ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered. All site users are encouraged to use hand sanitising gel on entrance to, and exit from, the site.

Furthermore, all students and teaching staff are asked to use hand sanitising gel at the start of each lesson period. [The gel is situated on a table near the entrance to the classroom door and staff supervise students' use of this]. Hand sanitiser is also available in all other frequently used indoor spaces, including the library, staff room and offices/work areas. Furthermore, sanitising stations are positioned in food service areas.

Students are discouraged from touching their faces, or putting objects in their mouths. Posters and rolling digital displays reinforce good hygiene measures.

Ensuring good respiratory hygiene

The 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach is promoted through the school, including through the use of posters and rolling digital displays.

A good supply of tissues is supplied in each classroom. Foot-operated pedal bins are also situated in each classroom and in other high usage areas around the site. These bins are emptied regularly.

Disinfectant wipes/spray are available in each classroom (in case anyone sneezes).

Cleaning the site

We ensure that our cleaning contractors follow carefully the published guidance on cleaning (infection prevention and control) – [PHE, 15 Jul. '20: COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings outside the home.](#)

An enhanced cleaning schedule (the **Site Cleaning Schedule (COVID-19)**) is implemented, including definition of responsibilities, methods, frequency and in which circumstances an additional clean is needed.

Cleaning prioritises surfaces that are touched by multiple people – photocopiers, door handles, table/counter tops, computers (including mice/keyboards), whiteboards, light switches, telephones, chairs, bannisters, specialised equipment for SEND students, toilets, toilet handles, sinks, taps, etc.

Cleaning substances are risk assessed. Dirty water is disposed of safely and there is a designated locked area for cleaning products.

The standard of cleaning is monitored closely and there is close liaison with the cleaning company's management team.

Approved cleaning products are provided in all communal areas – classrooms, library, office spaces, reception desk, first aid bay, toilets etc. These areas are cleaned by the cleaning contractors, taking into account high incidence touching surfaces and multiple users, consistent with [PHE, 19 Jul. '21: COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings outside the home.](#)

Use of resources and equipment

Where possible, resources are laid out on desks before the class enters the room and, where possible, sharing resources is avoided. Resources (including text books) can be shared but should be cleaned (wiped down with disinfectant) regularly.

Students should bring their own pencil cases with all the equipment they need.

Where possible, students' books/folders are kept in classrooms, but students are able to take these to and from home, as necessary.

Teachers mark students' work (in accordance with Assessment Policy), but they should sanitise/wash their hands, before and after contact.

Library books are loaned out and are sanitised before handing out and on receipt.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Reference to PPE in this section means: fluid-resistant surgical face masks; disposable gloves; disposable plastic aprons; and eye protection, e.g. face visor or goggles.

The Government has advised that the majority of school staff do not need to wear PPE routinely, beyond what they would normally use for their work. Where staff wish to use PPE, they must liaise with the Business Manager and demonstrate that they are able to use it correctly.

In accordance with DfE guidance, PPE is provided to staff (who are expected to use it) in the following circumstances:

- 1) Where staff are caring for students whose intimate care needs already require the use of PPE
- 2) Where a student becomes unwell on site - with symptoms of Coronavirus - and requires direct personal care until they can go home, a fluid-resistant surgical mask should be worn by the staff member caring for the student. If contact with the pupils is necessary, the staff member should wear disposable gloves, a disposable apron, and a fluid-resistant surgical mask. Where there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, e.g. from coughing, eye protection should be worn.

When using PPE, staff follow PHE's guidelines on putting on and taking off equipment. PHE's infographics will be displayed in the medical area. Before using PPE, colleagues should watch this [short video](#). Any queries/questions should be directed to the First Aid Officer or the Business Manager.

When using face masks, staff ensure that the masks:

Cover both the nose and mouth.

Do not dangle around the neck

Are not touched, once put on, except when carefully removed before disposal.

Are changed whenever they become moist or damaged.

Are only worn once and then discarded.

PPE is disposed of by putting it into the plastic bag inside a closed pedal bin. The bin bag will be taken out of the pedal bin by the site staff and placed inside another bag ('double bagged'). The waste is stored safely and securely kept away from students.

It is not put out for refuse collection for at least 72 hours. This waste does not require a dedicated clinical waste collection.

Additional risk assessments are conducted to determine whether PPE is required for other tasks and activities.

Any waste from the lateral flow testing centre is 'triple bagged' and stored / disposed of securely and safely (according to guidelines).

On-site development of symptoms

A protective screen is installed around the first aid bay.

If someone becomes unwell on site, with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they are sent home (by a senior member of staff). Where this is a student, parents are contacted. A contactless thermometer is used to help to inform the judgement regarding COVID-19 symptoms.

Where a student needs to be collected, they are moved to a dedicated room, where they can be isolated – behind a closed door, with ventilation. (If it is not possible to isolate them, they are moved to an area that is at least 2 m. away from other people).

If the person needs the toilet, they should use a separate toilet, which should then be locked and subsequently deep-cleaned before further use.

In any situation where a 2 m. distance cannot be maintained, first aid staff wear PPE (disposable gloves, apron, disposable face mask and eye protection).

Where a parent/carer collects their child from school, they are asked to wait in their car, while the student is escorted by the first aider (at a safe distance) to them. Where they are not in a car, a meeting point is agreed, outside of the school buildings.

In the case of an emergency, 999 is called.

Where a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with COVID-19 symptoms, they do not need to go home themselves unless they also develop the symptoms (in which case, a test is available), or the person subsequently tests positive. They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds.

The area where the person has been, and all surfaces with which the person has been in contact, should be cleaned with disinfectant. Gloves and an apron should be worn (as a minimum). Where an area has been heavily contaminated, such as with visible body fluid, protection for eyes, nose and mouth should also be used. Public areas where a symptomatic person has passed through, and spent minimal time (and are not visibly contaminated) can be cleaned as normal.

Disposable cloths/mop heads and/or paper towels should be used for cleaning, with an approved disinfectant.

Waste from possible cases is put in a pedal bin, collected and double bagged by the site team (as for other waste). It is kept for 72 hours and then disposed of with normal waste.

Staff who have helped someone with symptoms, and students who have been in close contact with them, do not need to go home to self-isolate, unless they themselves develop symptoms (in which case, they should arrange a test), or if they are requested to do so through 'Test and Trace'.

Everyone who has been in contact with someone who has been unwell, with COVID-19 symptoms, should wash their hands thoroughly (for 20 seconds) with soap and running water, or use hand sanitiser.

Management of confirmed cases

Anyone with symptoms should arrange to have a LFD or PCR test, as soon as possible. If the test result is positive, they must continue to self-isolate. Confirmatory PCT tests, following a LFD test result, are temporarily suspended (with effect from 11 Jan. '22). This means that anyone who receives a positive LFD result is required to self-isolate immediately and is not required to take a confirmatory PCR test. Even people without COVID-19 symptoms, who have a positive test result, must stay at home and self-isolate.

Parents/carers are asked to inform the school, without delay, of the results of a COVID-19 test via the designated email address:
covid@chaseterraceacademy.co.uk

People who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 are at significantly higher risk of becoming infected themselves. Someone who has been vaccinated is less likely to become severely ill if they catch COVID-19. They are also less likely to spread COVID-19 to other people, but it is still possible for this to happen. Therefore:

- Anyone who is aged 18 years 6 months or over and not fully vaccinated, and who lives in the same household as someone with COVID-19, is legally required to stay at home and self-isolate.
- Anyone who is fully vaccinated, or aged under 18 years and 6 months, who lives in the same household as someone with COVID-19, is not legally required to self-isolate. However, they are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days, and to self-isolate if any of these test results is positive. LFD tests are very good at identifying people who have high levels of coronavirus and are most likely to pass on infection to others, even where someone does not have symptoms.

Parents/carers and staff should understand that, were they to test positive or were otherwise asked by the NHS 'Test and Trace' team, they would need to be ready to provide details of anyone with whom they have been in close contact. The NHS COVID-19 app is available to anyone aged 16 and over to download if they choose. This will mean that some students in year 11, and most students in years 12 and above will be eligible to use the app and benefit from its features. Staff members are also encouraged use the app. The document 'Use of the NHS COVID-19 app in education and childcare settings' provides information about how the app works and guidance for its use within schools in England.

It is vital that parents/carers inform the school of the results of a COVID-19 test via the designated email address: covid@chaseterraceacademy.co.uk

Where the student, or member of staff, tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have coronavirus symptoms, they can return to school and the members of their household can end the self-isolation.

Close contacts in schools are now identified by NHS Test and Trace and so schools are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case, or their parent, specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals, who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. A person may be contacted, in exceptional cases, to help with identifying close contacts.

From 14 Dec. 2021, adults who are fully vaccinated, and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result. Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
- children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine.

Students with SEND, identified as close contacts, will be supported by the school, and their family, to agree the most appropriate route for testing, including, where appropriate, additional support to assist swabbing.

18-year-olds are treated in the same way as children, until 6 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated, at which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults. Therefore, if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate, if identified as a close contact.

In the case of a local outbreak, the school continues to have a role in working with health protection teams. If there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in a setting, or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, a director of public health might advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures.

[See the **COVID-19 Risk Assessment and Action Plan** for further detail]

Asymptomatic Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing

Rapid testing is an important part of the plan to suppress the virus. LFDs support the return to face-to-face education by helping to identify people who are infectious, but do not have any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms. The lateral flow devices used have received regulatory approval from the MHRA for self-use.

For secondary schools, the approach is a home testing model. Students and staff are provided with home test kits for regular testing. Testing is voluntary, but strongly encouraged. Sunday and Wednesday are designated home testing days.

Individuals with a positive LFD test result will need to follow the guidance outlined in the previous section.

Individuals are exempt from testing, by both PCR and LFD, within 90 days of a positive PCR test, unless they develop new symptoms.

In addition to reporting their test results to NHS 'Test and Trace' (as soon as a test is completed), staff and students are also asked to share their home test result, whether void, positive or negative, with the school, to support with contact tracing. Positive results should be reported to covid@chaseterraceacademy.co.uk.

COMMUNICATION AND TRAINING

All social distancing and infection control measures are communicated to all relevant stakeholders, including students, parents/carers, staff, visitors, suppliers and contractors. All members of the school community are reminded regularly of their responsibilities.

Staff are informed of all relevant plans and safety measures and, as required, have training on the new measures. They are encouraged to provide continuous feedback on the arrangements that are in place.

Students receive detailed reinforcement of expectations in lessons – as outlined in the **Classroom Working Protocol (COVID-19)** and the **Behaviour Policy Addendum (COVID-19)**.

Visual aids around the school remind the school community of the measures in place, and the expectations, with regard to social distancing and infection control.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy (and the **COVID-19 Risk Assessment and Action Plan**) is reviewed regularly by the Executive Headteacher, in consultation with the Head of School and other senior staff. The review is informed by feedback from site users and parents/carers.

Updates made to this policy are communicated to all staff members and parents/carers. The Executive Headteacher also liaises regularly with the Chair of the Trust Board and the Chair of Governors and keeps directors of the Trust and members of the Governing Body well-informed of any significant developments in relation to the risk management process.

Stuart Jones; 5 Jan. '22