



Annex to Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy March 2020 : Key Actions for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in School

Today, children and young people are global citizens, powerful agents of change and the next generation of caregivers, scientists, and doctors. Any crisis presents the opportunity to help them learn, cultivate compassion and increase resilience while building a safer and more caring community. Having information and facts about COVID-19 will help diminish students' fears and anxieties around the disease and support their ability to cope with any secondary impacts in their lives.

The purpose of this document is to provide clear and actionable guidance for safe operations through the prevention, early detection and control of COVID-19 in our school setting(s).

Basic principles

Following basic principles can help keep students, teachers, and staff safe at school and help stop the spread of this disease.

Recommendations for healthy schools which we will endeavour to follow as closely as possible are:

- Sick students, teachers and other staff will not be allowed into school. If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature while in the setting they will be sent home.
- School will promote and where necessary enforce regular hand washing with safe water and soap, alcohol rub/hand sanitizer or chlorine solution. Public Health England advice remains that handwashing with soap and hot water and frequent disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces with clean disposable cloth is sufficient (better than hand sanitiser): we will encourage frequent and thorough washing of hands (at least 20 seconds)
- School will provide water, sanitation and waste management facilities and follow environmental cleaning and decontamination procedures. We will ensure adequate, clean and separate toilets for girls and boys, ensure soap and safe water is available at age-appropriate hand washing stations and place hand sanitizers in toilets, classrooms, halls, and near exits where possible
- We will implement social distancing practices that may include:

Staggering the beginning and end of the school day, cancelling assemblies, creating space for children's desks to be at least two metres apart, teaching and modelling creating space and avoiding unnecessary touching. School staff will promote social distancing (a term applied to certain actions that are taken to slow down the spread of a highly contagious disease, including limiting large groups of people coming together)

- School cleaning staff will clean and disinfect school buildings, classrooms and especially water and sanitation facilities at least once a day, particularly surfaces that are touched by many people (railings, lunch tables, sports equipment, door and window handles, toys, teaching and learning aids etc.) They will ensure rubbish is removed daily and disposed of safely.



Hoo St Werburgh Primary School and Marlborough Centre



- Staff will increase air flow and ventilation where climate allows (open windows, use air conditioning where available, etc.)

Staff will keep up to date with the latest facts

Staff will do their utmost to understand basic information about coronavirus disease (COVID-19), including its symptoms, complications, how it is transmitted and how to prevent transmission. They will stay informed about COVID-19 through reputable sources such as WHO and Public Health England.

Procedures if students or staff become unwell in school

We have developed a procedure for separating sick students and staff from those who are well – without creating stigma – and a process for informing parents/caregivers, and consulting with health care providers/health authorities wherever possible. Students/staff may need to be referred directly to a health facility, depending on the situation/context, or sent home.

If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door. School will be mindful of individual children's needs – for example it would not be appropriate for younger children to be alone without adult supervision. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people. If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

Information sharing

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team will coordinate and follow guidelines from the national health and education authorities and Gov.uk. They will share known information with staff, caregivers and students, providing updated information on the disease situation, including prevention and control efforts at school. School will utilize social media including parentmail, the school website, Twitter and Facebook pages to promote information sharing.

It is essential that caregivers alert the school if someone in their home has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and keep their child at home.

Plans for continuity of learning

In the case of absenteeism/sick leave or temporary school closures, we will support continued access to quality education. This may include: Use of online/e-learning strategies, assigning reading and exercises for home study, radio, podcast or television broadcasts of academic content and home learning packs. We will update class pages on our website every week.



Addressing Emotional and Mental Health and Well Being support needs

It is normal that children may experience different reactions and we will encourage them to talk to teachers if they have any questions or concerns. We will try to provide information in an honest, age-appropriate manner and will guide students on how to support their peers. Staff will work with school health workers and where necessary social workers to identify and support students and staff who exhibit signs of distress or anxiety.

Support for vulnerable pupils

Class teachers will work with the SENCo to ensure learning packs consider and endeavour to meet the specific needs of children with special education needs and disabilities. Parents/carers can contact class teachers directly via the school contact e-mail if they have any concerns or queries.

The pastoral team will make regular contact (phone calls or home visits) with families of children who are supported by social care and those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including: Pupils with child in need plans, pupils on child protection plans, looked after children, young carers and pupils with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

In the case of a partial closure, the pastoral team will work with social workers, parents and carers to decide whether the child should go to school. The DfE says if it's at all possible, children who can be safely cared for at home should stay at home.

Safeguarding: Monitoring Vulnerable Children

Responsibility for safeguarding the vulnerable will remain a high priority during partial school closures. The designated safeguarding lead will be responsible for compiling a list of vulnerable pupils and ensuring that this is kept up to date. They will formally risk-assess vulnerable children and the issues they may be exposed to at home, record all contact with families and liaise with social services as necessary to ensure the safety of all pupils whether they are in school or at home.

Chair of the Local Advisory Board
30 March 2020