

Ashlands Primary School.  
Covid 19 Risk Assessment. March 2022.

This risk assessment has been produced with the latest Government Guidance available following the easing of restrictions and the Policy of Living with Covid. As such it will be subject to developing information and guidance produced both Nationally and in our District. Following the uptake of vaccinations by many adults the risk of serious Covid 19 infection has been reduced, however staff and our community should still contact the school if they are vulnerable. We should also remember that positive cases of Covid 19 should still self-isolate to protect our community and minimise any further transmissions even though there is no longer a legal requirement to do so.

As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a two vaccine doses and a booster injection, with younger children now being allowed to have a single lower dose vaccination if parents would like.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

We would encourage all individuals to take a test if they have been in close contact with a positive case.

#### Stepping up Control Measures:

Ashlands Primary School will follow the guidance of our local Public Health Professionals should an outbreak occur which would require the introduction of further control measures. This could include previous measures such as Bubbles, the use of staggered start and end times of the school day and staggered lunchbreaks. Currently, National Guidance is that these measures are not necessary.

#### Face Coverings:

The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law however recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This typically includes public transport and dedicated transport to school or college. Face Coverings are no longer required when visiting the school in corridors and communal areas. There is no longer a requirement to wear face coverings in the playground.

#### Social Distancing:

Social Distancing remains a key measure to reduce the spread of the Covid 19 virus, as such we will try to continue to keep appropriate distances between adults and children as much as possible.

## **Control measures**

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.

### **Hand hygiene:**

Frequent and thorough hand washing should now be regular practice. You should continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

### **Respiratory hygiene:**

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important.

The [e-Bug COVID-19 website](#) contains free resources for you, including materials to encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene.

### **Use of personal protective equipment (PPE):**

Most staff in schools will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work. The guidance on the [use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care settings](#) provides more information on the use of PPE for COVID-19.

2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.

Ashlands Primary will put in place and maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule. This should include regular cleaning of areas and equipment (for example, twice per day), with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.

3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.

It is important to ensure the school is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained. Opening external windows can improve natural ventilation, and in addition, opening internal doors can also assist with creating air circulation. If necessary, external opening doors may also be used (if they are not fire doors and where safe to do so).

We must balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature. Carbon Dioxide monitors will help the monitoring of classroom environments to make sure that air is replenished in a timely manner.

4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test. Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and they should follow public health advice.

For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.

If a pupil is awaiting collection, they should be left in a room on their own if possible and safe to do so. A window should be opened for fresh air ventilation if possible. Appropriate PPE should also be used if close contact is necessary. Further information on this can be found in the use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care settings guidance. Any rooms they use should be cleaned after they have left.

The household (including any siblings) should follow the PHE stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

### **Enhanced Cleaning**

Additional cleaning will take place in school. This will take the form of additional surfaces being cleaned during the school day through the employment of additional cleaning staff.

### **Asymptomatic testing**

Staff are no longer required to undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site. However, should they still want to test for peace of mind and to protect themselves and their colleagues the school does have a supply of testing kits for this purpose.

### **Confirmatory PCR tests**

Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the guidance for [people who have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#). They will also need to [get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19](#).

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

### **Admitting children into school**

In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others.

If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending Ashlands, the school can make the decision to refuse the pupil if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. The decision will be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.

### **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.

Where a child is required to self-isolate or quarantine because of COVID-19 in accordance with relevant legislation or guidance published by PHE or the DHSC they should be recorded as code X (not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus). Where they are unable to attend because they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 they should be recorded as code I (illness).

For pupils abroad who are unable to return, code X is unlikely to apply. In some specific cases, code Y (unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances) will apply. Further guidance about the use of codes is provided in the [school attendance guidance](#).

## Remote education

Not all people with COVID-19 have symptoms. Where appropriate, Ashlands Primary will support those who need to self-isolate because they have tested positive to work or learn from home if they are well enough to do so through Remote Education in Google Classroom.

## Confirmed Covid Case in a household

If a parent is self-isolating because of Covid then we would ask that anything sent in from home is limited. Any reading book brought from a household with a confirmed case will be quarantined in school before being added back to the Reading Scheme. Reading books will continue to be issued to limit lost learning for the child.

<b><u>Identify hazard</u></b>		Record the hazard that could cause harm or injury – add appropriate detail about the type and location of hazards	
<b>Virus transmission through poor hand hygiene</b> resulting in direct and indirect transmission of the virus			
<b><u>Existing level of risk</u></b>		Consider current level of risk	
<b>HIGH</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>NEGLIGIBLE</b>
<b><u>Control measures</u></b>		List your control measures required to reduce risk – add appropriate detail about the type and location of controls	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hand hygiene will be emphasised through children using hand sanitizer when coming into the school building at the start of the school day, before lunch, after break times and following toilet visits.</li> <li>2. Soap and hand sanitizer will be available.</li> <li>3. Hand dryers will continue to be used as there is currently no scientific consensus on virus aerosols to suggest this practice be stopped – following effective hand washing virus load will be reduced, the alternative of paper towels and lidded bins would introduce another hard surface with inherent risks of virus transfer.</li> <li>4. Extra Signs in toilets and around school re washing hands</li> <li>5. Wedges for the toilet external toilet doors. To reduce potential hard surface transfer.</li> </ol> <p>Ensuring full compliance with these control measures will reduce the level of risk.</p>			
<b><u>Remaining level of risk</u></b>		Consider level of risk following use of control measures	
<b>HIGH</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>REDUCED</b>

<b><u>Identify hazard</u></b>		Record the hazard that could cause harm or injury – add appropriate detail about the type and location of hazards	
<b>Poor Ventilation in rooms resulting in potential transfer of virus as the number of virus particles in the air increases.</b>			
<b><u>Existing level of risk</u></b>		Consider current level of risk	
<b>HIGH</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>NEGLIGIBLE</b>
<b><u>Control measures</u></b>		List your control measures required to reduce risk – add appropriate detail about the type and location of controls	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ventilation of classrooms will be encouraged with windows and doors open as required.</li> <li>2. Carbon Dioxide monitors are being procured by the DFE for use in schools, when these are available, we will use them to further enhance our ventilation strategy.</li> </ol>			

3. There must be a balance between the ventilation of classrooms and the temperature within the room to allow all children and staff to work in comfort.  
Ensuring full compliance with these control measures will reduce the level of risk.

<b>Remaining level of risk</b>		Consider level of risk following use of control measures	
<b>HIGH</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>REDUCED</b>

<b>Identify hazard</b>	Record the hazard that could cause harm or injury – add appropriate detail about the type and location of hazards
------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Aerosol spread of virus through coughing or talking.

<b>Existing level of risk</b>		Consider current level of risk	
<b>HIGH</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>NEGLIGIBLE</b>

<b>Control measures</b>	List your control measures required to reduce risk – add appropriate detail about the type and location of controls
-------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Social distancing required to be in place as much as possible, with everyone in school encouraged to observe this and demonstrate their care for one another.
2. Catch it, Bin it, Kill it. Information spread to school through posters and message to everyone on the school site.
3. Catching a cough or sneeze in the crook of the arm demonstrated to all on the school site if a tissue is not available.
4. Tissues in classrooms available for everyone.
5. Children encouraged to communicate without shouting to reduce any potential aerosols.

Ensuring full compliance with these control measures will reduce the level of risk.

<b>Remaining level of risk</b>		Consider level of risk following use of control measures	
<b>HIGH</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>REDUCED</b>

<b>Identify hazard</b>	Record the hazard that could cause harm or injury – add appropriate detail about the type and location of hazards
------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Risk of spreading virus due to close contact with children – 1:1 working and restraint** resulting in potential direct transmission of the virus

<b>Existing level of risk</b>		Consider current level of risk	
<b>HIGH</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>NEGLIGIBLE</b>

<b>Control measures</b>	List your control measures required to reduce risk – add appropriate detail about the type and location of controls
-------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Seek expert guidance from special schools re support for children with behaviour difficulties – that might need restraint and display spitting, biting etc. Leading to individual risk assessments
2. Some staff will have individual hand sanitizer or gel to allow them to use this more regularly during the school day.
3. Masks available to be issued to individuals as necessary.
4. Extra disposable aprons available.
5. Extra gloves available.
6. Reduced timetable / exclusion / inclusion considered if necessary if children are acting in a way staff are put at risk.
7. Staff are able to wear masks if they would like to.

Ensuring full compliance with these control measures will reduce the level of risk.

<b>Remaining level of risk</b>				Consider level of risk following use of control measures
<b>HIGH</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>REDUCED</b>	

<b>Identify hazard</b>	Record the hazard that could cause harm or injury – add appropriate detail about the type and location of hazards			
------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--

**Actions to be taken if a Suspected case occurs in school.**

<b>Existing level of risk</b>				Consider current level of risk
<b>HIGH</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>NEGLIGIBLE</b>	

<b>Control measures</b>	List your control measures required to reduce risk – add appropriate detail about the type and location of controls			
-------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--

1. If a child presents with the symptoms of Covid 19 in school: High temperature, new continuous cough or a loss of the sense of smell or taste then they will be moved to the meeting room at the front of school.
2. Parent will be contacted immediately and asked to collect the child from school.
3. Windows in the room will be opened to provide air flow which has been shown to reduce the spread of the virus.
4. If a member of staff needs to be in the room with the child then PPE is available for them.
5. If the child needs to use the toilet whilst awaiting pick up they will use the accessible toilet in the front of school, to minimise their movement around school. The toilet will be cleaned immediately after they have used it.
6. The parent will be provided with a testing kit if this is necessary and asked to inform school as soon as they have the test result back.
7. Ashlands will follow the latest guidance from Public Health England and inform local Health Protection Team immediately to seek guidance on what to do next.

Ensuring full compliance with these control measures will reduce the level of risk.

<b>Remaining level of risk</b>				Consider level of risk following use of control measures
<b>HIGH</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>REDUCED</b>	

March 2022.

<b>Name of manager</b>	<b>Signature of manager</b>	<b>Date</b>