COVID-19: outbreak management plan

Introduction:

This plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19 and the [schools operational guidance](#), provided by the Department for Education (DfE).

We will only implement some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by our local authority (LA), directors of public health (DsPH), Public Health England (PHE) health protection team or the national government.

It may be necessary to implement these measures in the following circumstances, for example:

❖ To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school. Actions will be considered when either of the following thresholds are met:

- There are 5 positive cases amongst pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely within a 10-day period

- 10% of pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive within a 10-day period

❖ If COVID-19 infection rates in the community are extremely high, and other measures have failed to reduce transmission

❖ As part of a package of measures responding to a 'variant of concern' (VoC)

❖ To prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

Seeking public health advice:

When one of the thresholds above is met, we will review the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures already in place.

We will also seek public health advice from a director of public health or health protection team. Michelle Ashfield will be responsible for seeking this advice, and will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687) or emailing HealthProtectionSecure@cheshirewestandchester.go.uk

Shielding:

We will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding, which would apply to those on the [shielded patient list (SPL)](#).

We will speak to individuals required to shield about additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning.

Other measures:

Parents, carers, pupils and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of control measures. This will be done via email once a decision has been made.

If recommended, we will limit:

- ❖ Residential/educational visits
- ❖ Visitors attending
- ❖ Transition or taster days
- ❖ Parents coming into school for assemblies or meetings

If recommended, we will (re)introduce:

- ❖ Bubbles, to reduce mixing between groups, including all former COVID bubble provisions eg lunch provision
- ❖ Face coverings in communal areas staff and outside for staff and parents at the end of the day (unless exempt)

Attendance restrictions:

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort. If recommended, we will implement the measures in this section.

Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- ❖ Vulnerable pupils
- ❖ Children of critical workers

Education and support for pupils at home

All other pupils will be required to stay at home and will receive remote education.

We will aim to deliver remote education that meets the same quality and quantity of education that pupils would receive in school, as outlined in our remote learning policy.

The school will continue to provide meals or lunch parcels for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines.

Vouchers will be emailed out if available. If not, Lunch parcels will be available for weekly collection. Delivery will be available for families who are **unable to access by any another means of collection**.

Breakfast club

We will limit access to breakfast club during term time and the holidays to those that need it most.

We will communicate who will be eligible to attend once the restrictions are confirmed.

Safeguarding:

We will review our child protection policy to make sure it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective.

We will have a trained DSL or deputy DSL or member of the safeguarding team on site at all times.

When vulnerable pupils are absent, we will:

- ❖ Speak to parents/carers and, where applicable, social workers and the local authority, to work out the reason for absence
- ❖ Encourage attendance
- ❖ Make sure vulnerable pupils can access appropriate education and support while at home
- ❖ Maintain contact, and check regularly that the pupil is able to access remote education provision
- ❖ Home visits may be made and if contact can not be make police welfare checks requested.