



The Blue Coat School

# **COVID-19 POLICY**

This COVID-19 Policy was devised by the Head of Pre-Prep in consultation with colleagues in the school.

Date of Next Review: April 2021 or sooner if required

## COVID-19 POLICY

### I. CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS

#### I.1

The School is in the West Midlands East district for Public Health England. The Health Protection Team contact details are: Public Health England, 5 St Philip's Place, Birmingham B3 2PW (T: 0344 225 3560 – Option 2). Out of hours advice: T: 01384 679031. The School will also contact the dedicated advice service introduced by Public Health England and delivered by NHS Business Services Authority via the DfE Helpline on 0800 046 8687 (Option 1). The School will act in accordance with their guidance and the resulting risk assessment to confirm the close contacts of a person during the period they were infectious. If, following triage, further expert advice is required, the adviser will escalate the school's call to the PHE local health protection team.

#### I.2

Tests as part of the NHS Test and Trace process can be ordered by telephone via the NHS on 119. Anyone involved in childcare or education has priority access to testing. Staff and parents must be ready and willing to book a test if they or their child are displaying symptoms. They must also be prepared to provide details of anyone they or their child has been in close contact with if they were to test positive for COVID-19 or if asked by NHS Test and Trace. They must self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 or if anyone in their household develops symptoms of COVID-19. School should be informed of the outcome of any test. (See also 3.2 below.)

#### I.3

If the School has one positive case of COVID-19 then Birmingham City Council has stipulated that an email is sent to the Council Public Health Team at [contacttracing@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:contacttracing@birmingham.gov.uk) rather than Public Health England. If the School has two or more positive cases of COVID-19 then Public Health England will be contacted in addition to the Council Public Health Team. The contact details for Public Health England are: [WM.2019CoV@phe.gov.uk](mailto:WM.2019CoV@phe.gov.uk) or 0344 225 3560 followed by pressing 0 and then Option 2.

## 2. BACKGROUND

### 2.1

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the School remained open, initially for children of Key Workers and Critical Workers and vulnerable children. As restrictions were gradually lifted the School re-opened to other children. This was initially for children in Nursery (formerly called Transition), Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 with effect from 1 June, 2020. Year 5 returned from 17 June 2020 and Years 2 – 4 from 22 June 2020. A comprehensive Risk Assessment was devised to address the requirements for safe practices during the COVID-19 pandemic. This was approved by Governors and issued to all staff and was available for all parents on the school website. This has been kept under regular review as circumstances have changed.

### 2.2

A full return to School was implemented in accordance with Government guidance in September. The Risk Assessment was reviewed prior to the start of the Michaelmas Term and regularly reviewed thereafter in line with new Government guidance and as practices changed. A further review was carried out in readiness for the November national lockdown. This lockdown did not require the closure of schools.

### 2.3

Following the national lockdown effective from 5 January 2021, all schools in England were closed other than for Early Years settings, for vulnerable children and for children of Critical Workers. The School remained open for these children when term re-commenced on 5 January 2021. This included being fully open for children in the Nursery classes.

## **2.4**

On 22 February 2021 the Prime Minister set out the Government's 'road map' which included its plans for the re-opening of schools on 8 March 2021. The School planned for the full re-opening with pupils welcomed back into school on 8 March 2021. Staff and parents were informed of the plans for the re-opening and the Risk Assessment was updated.

## **2.5**

The school has complied fully with all Government guidance in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic and continues to do so by ensuring that it keeps abreast of any updates to the guidance or new guidance as and when these are issued.

## **2.6**

During a period of enforced closure (either full or partial) or a phased return, Individual Risk Assessments are completed for all children not in school and who are considered to be at greater risk. These are reviewed at least every two weeks or sooner if circumstances change.

## **2.7**

An additional appendix has been added to the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and an additional appendix has been added to the Behaviour Management and Exclusions Policy. These appendices set out additional expectations and requirements for the circumstances pertaining to the educational provision at the School due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These Policies are reviewed regularly.

## **2.8**

Additional policies and procedures have been devised to cover specific aspects of the management of the COVID-19 pandemic. These include: Remote Learning Policy; ICT Acceptable use Policy (Pupils in Pre-Prep); and the COVID-19 Risk Assessment. All relevant School policies were reviewed ready for the start of the Michaelmas Term and again in the Lent Term to ensure that they reflect changes in practice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All policies are available on the school website or school intranet.

## **2.9**

All staff are expected to ensure that they are fully aware of the COVID-19 Risk Assessment and all School policies and procedures and that they fully comply with them and with this COVID-19 Policy. Staff will be notified of any updates to the COVID-19 Risk Assessment and this Policy.

## **2.10 Critical Management of the School**

### **2.10.1**

Appendix I to this policy sets out the changes to the management structure that will pertain should one or more of the Senior Leadership Team contract COVID-19.

## **3. PRECAUTIONS**

### **3.1**

All the precautions and procedures of this Policy and other relevant whole school policies and procedures will be followed to minimise risks to the health and safety of the pupils, staff and others affected by the School's activities and to promote their welfare. These include:

- The completion of all relevant health and safety checks in accordance with the required schedules with any remedial works addressed as required.
- The completion of any additional health and safety checks on a more frequent basis to ensure that practices are as safe as possible and comply with current guidance.
- Ensuring that staff have access to a Designated Safeguarding Lead at all times during the school working day. During a national or local lockdown, access to a Designated Safeguarding Lead might be made remotely. In the event that none of the DSLs are available because they are unwell, then support with safeguarding matters could be obtained from a link school, details of which would be available from the Headmaster or his PA. See *also Appendix I*.
- Providing support for children completing distance learning work at home through regular contact with staff both remotely and through regular phone calls. This will be required in the event of a national or

local lockdown or possibly for any child required to self-isolate or shield. Any child thought to be at risk or in need of additional pastoral support will also be contacted by a member of the pastoral team. A record of the phone calls will be made on iSAMS and these records will be reviewed by the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) so that any safeguarding concerns can be followed up. Staff members are also required to inform a DSL of any safeguarding concerns they identify.

- Providing support for children returning to school or starting at the school and helping them to adjust to new routines.
- Providing pastoral and mental health support to children as required.
- Active promotion of Online Safety with reminders to children and staff. In the event of a further national or local lockdown, all parents and staff will be required to acknowledge receipt of the Remote Learning Policy and the ICT Acceptable Use Policy and agree to comply with these policies. Links to websites and apps are checked by staff before signposting children to these in their Distance Learning.

### 3.2 Safe Working Practices

Safe working practices include:

- **Presence at school** – any adult (staff and parents) or child who has tested positive for COVID-19 or with symptoms of COVID-19 such as a raised temperature; new, persistent cough; or loss of taste or smell or in the case of a child, diarrhoea, vomiting or abdominal cramps, must not attend school or visit the school campus and they must not come into school for at least 10 days or until they have received a negative COVID-19 test result. Similarly, adults and children must follow the self-isolation requirements if they are in a support bubble, childcare bubble or household with a person with COVID-19 symptoms or who has tested positive for it. The current requirement is for them to self-isolate for 10 days. If a child or staff member who has attended school becomes unwell with COVID-19 symptoms, they should be tested for the virus. Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will need to self-isolate for at least 10 days and fellow household members should self-isolate for 10 days. If anyone has tested positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but then develops symptoms during the isolation period, then the 10-day isolation period should be restarted. The rest of their class (and teacher) will also be required to self-isolate for 10 days and will not be allowed to return to school. No member of staff or child shall return to school if they have COVID-19 until they are fully recovered. The School should be kept informed during any isolation period.
- **Social distancing** with distances of 2m as far as possible as required by the Government. Signage is in place across the campus reminding children, parents and staff of this requirement. Staff and parents are given regular written reminders about social distancing and children are also given verbal reminders. Staff should avoid close face-to-face contact and minimise time spent within 1m of anyone.
- **Close contacts** – for the purpose of NHS Test and Trace, close contacts are defined as direct face-to-face contact with an infected individual for any length of time within 1m, being coughed on, a face-to-face conversation or unprotected physical skin-to-skin contact; extended close contact (within 1 to 2 m for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual; travelling in a small vehicle such as car, with an infected person.
- **Hand washing** – staff and children are required to wash their hands at regular intervals throughout the day for at least 20 seconds following the Government guidance for handwashing techniques. In particular, they should wash their hands after coughing or sneezing, after using the toilet, before and after handling food and before or after playtimes. Young children are supervised whilst washing their hands to ensure that they do this correctly. Signage is on display around the campus reminding campus users of these expectations. Hand sanitisers are accessible at key locations around the campus, especially where resources might potentially be shared. Additional outdoor sinks are available outside Pre-Prep and also in the Quad.
- **'Catch It, Bin It, Kill It'** protocols are followed after sneezing or coughing. Signage is on display around the campus to this effect. Tissues have been provided in all rooms and lidded bins have been provided for the disposal of used tissues. Adults and children are encouraged not to touch their faces, eyes, noses or mouths.
- **Face masks** – children and staff may wear face masks in confined spaces if they wish to do so but this is not currently a Government requirement or recommendation. Staff and children should not touch their faces whilst removing face coverings and should wash their hands thoroughly before and after removing the covering. Temporary face coverings should be disposed of in the black bin waste whilst

reusable masks should be put in sealable, plastic bags. Any face covering that becomes damp should be removed. Visors will only be used in addition to face masks or coverings following Government guidance that visors offer very limited protection to users and to contacts.

- **Ventilation** – all staff must ensure that working spaces are well-ventilated. Windows should be closed at the end of the day to assist the housekeeping staff.
- **Staffing** – where possible, staff will remain within their year group for teaching. However, in line with the current Government guidance, all teachers and other staff can operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable. This has been kept to a minimum when timetabling. Staff must wash their hands between groups or use hand sanitiser, whichever is the more practical. Staff who work across different year groups must wear a face mask or covering when working with the different year groups. This includes catering staff who must also wear a face mask or covering whilst working.
- **Staff rooms** – social distancing must also be maintained in staff rooms. In Pre-Prep this means that no more than two people should be in the staff room at any one time and in Prep this means that no more than five people should be in the staff room at any one time. No more than two people should be in the Pre-Prep staff workroom and no more than three people in the Prep staff workroom at any one time.
- **Staff meetings** – these will be held remotely or in rooms where appropriate social distancing can be maintained and with a limited number of people.
- **Class groupings** – with effect from September 2020 and in line with the current Government guidance, the children will be in their class and set groupings for lessons. During the Lent Term national lockdown, children in school might be in different groupings from their normal forms/sets during the school day. These will be within the year group or in limited bubble groupings. Teaching spaces for children in Years 1 – 6 have been configured to promote social distancing. This includes the configuration of the desks and tables to be forward facing with children seated side-by-side rather than facing one another. In the EYFS, social distancing is maintained as far as is possible, but it is recognised that young children will play together in close proximity. As far as possible, children are kept in their year groups with any mixing between the year groups kept to an absolute minimum.
- **Classrooms** – as far as is possible, children from different year group ‘bubbles’ will not use shared classroom space. However, this will not always be possible for specialist rooms such as the Media Centre, Saville Music Room and Art Room. Where this is not possible additional cleaning will be implemented including ‘fogging’ of the rooms in between usage by different year groups. During the Lent Term national lockdown, children remained in their allocated teaching spaces throughout the day.
- **Registration** – registration will be on iSAMS following the normal procedures. Staff should be particularly vigilant at the start of the day to ensure that they are aware of which children have arrived in school. Staff will sign children out from after school provision or from activities to avoid cross-contamination. During the Lent Term national lockdown, staff register the children they are supervising with registration records monitored by SLT and records transferred to iSAMS.
- **Collection and drop offs** – designated drop off and collection points have been allocated to avoid congregation of children or adults. These time periods are phased to spread the arrival and departure times. Parents/carers are not allowed into the buildings other than to collect items from Main Reception from behind the protective screen. They are expected to maintain social distancing. Parents have been informed that only one adult should accompany a child at drop off and collection times and that they must not congregate or linger at drop off and collection times.
- **After school care** – Nursery children will be supervised in the Pre-Prep Gym whilst children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be supervised in their allocated room in The Annexe. Children in Years 3 will be supervised in the School Hall, Year 4 in St Philip’s House and St George’s House, Year 5 in St Margaret’s House and St Monica’s House and Year 6 in The Hub. During the Lent Term national lockdown, no specific Aftercare provision was made. Collection for Pre-Prep children was between 3.30 pm and 4 pm and for Prep children between 4.05 pm and 4.30 pm. The previous arrangements resumed on 8 March 2021.
- **Assemblies** – year group assemblies will be held but no assemblies will be held with children from mixed year groups. Any House assemblies held will be within the year group and will not involve children from mixed year groups. During the Lent Term national lockdown assemblies will only be held online. The previous arrangements resumed on 8 March 2021.

- **Play spaces** – separate outdoor play spaces have been allocated across the campus to ensure that children from different year groups do not mix outdoors as far as possible. Staff actively promote social distancing when the children are lining up at the end of play times and when children are moving around the campus.
- **Lunch times** – only one year group will eat lunch at a time. Additional dining facilities have been created to facilitate this. Lunch times will also be staggered to facilitate this and to allow appropriate cleaning between sittings. The children (other than Nursery) will be seated side-by-side rather than opposite one another. The staff dining room will not be available for staff to use as this will not meet social distancing requirements. During the Lent Term national lockdown, Nursery children will continue to have lunch in their dedicated Dining Hall. Other year groups will have lunch in the main Dining Hall at allocated times to preserve social distancing. The previous arrangements resumed on 8 March 2021.
- **Toilets** – toilet usage has been separated out with toilets allocated to specific groups as far as possible. Where this is not practically possible, staff ensure that children from different groups use the facilities at different times.
- **Resources** – the use of shared resources will be minimised. Children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 will have named sets of essential resources such as crayons, pencils, scissors, number lines and cubes to avoid sharing of resources as far as possible. Children in Years 3 – 6 are expected to bring their own pencil cases to school. All soft toys and toys that cannot be easily washed or cleaned have been removed. Other classroom-based resources should be regularly cleaned along with all frequently touched surfaces. Resources that are shared between classes or bubbles such as sports, art and science equipment should be ideally be rotated to allow them to be left unused for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics). Where this is not practicable, they should be cleaned frequently and thoroughly and always between bubbles. Outdoor playground equipment should be cleaned more frequently. Reading books and library books will be issued for children to take home. Library books will be issued from class or year group sets and visits to the library will be limited to year group bubbles with appropriate intervals in between usage. As far as possible books will be quarantined for up to 72 hours before re-issuing to other children.
- **Cleaning** – in order to facilitate regular and thorough cleaning, all items which are difficult to clean should be removed. All clutter should be removed so that surfaces can be easily wiped.
- **Records** – records are maintained of children and adults who have tested positive for COVID-19 and of those who have been sent home with COVID-19 symptoms so that NHS Test and Trace procedures can be followed. Accurate registers are maintained of all children and adults – see below also. Records are maintained of the children and staff in each group and seating plans are kept as far as reasonably possible to facilitate swifter tracing of contacts.
- **Parent meetings** – these will be carried out remotely as far as possible. Should face-to-face meetings be required then parents will be required to confirm that they do not have COVID-19 symptoms and are not required to self-isolate. Meetings will take place with appropriate social distancing and by appointment. Parents will be required to wear face coverings for meetings and a screen may also be used. Whilst the School is in Tier 4 or in a local or national lockdown, no face-to-face meetings with parents will be held.
- **Lateral Flow Tests** – with effect from mid-January, 2021, all staff are expected to complete Lateral Flow Tests twice weekly. Test kits are provided for staff. Staff are requested to report the results of their tests to the School. They are required to follow up a positive test result by self-isolating and arranging for Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test, the outcome of which should also be reported to school.

### 3.3 Music

#### 3.3.1 Class music lessons and ensembles

In line with Government guidance, it is currently considered that there may be an additional risk of infection in environments where people are singing, chanting, playing wind or brass instruments or shouting even if individuals are at a distance due to aerosol transmissions. None of these activities will take place in class music lessons, in ensembles, in choirs, in lessons with Visiting Music Teachers, or in any other situation during the first half of the Michaelmas Term. During the Lent Term national lockdown, all

curriculum music lessons will be held online and there will be no ensembles or music groups. The previous arrangements resumed on 8 March 2021.

### **3.3.2 Visiting Music Teachers**

Lessons with Visiting Music Teachers resumed other than those for singing, wind or brass instruments during the first half of the Michaelmas Term and for wind and brass instruments from the final week of the first half of the Michaelmas Term. All Visiting Music Teachers are required to comply in full with the requirements of this Policy and all other related School policies and the COVID-19 Risk Assessment. They must ensure that their rooms are well ventilated and that any shared equipment such as a piano, chairs or music stands are cleaned between pupils. They must wash their hands or use hand sanitiser between pupils. They should be positioned side-by-side with the pupil where possible and where this is not possible, they should be at least 2m apart. During the Lent Term national lockdown, all individual music lessons provided by the Visiting Music Teachers will be held online. Lessons in school resumed on 8 March 2021.

## **3.4 PE, Games and swimming**

### **3.4.1**

Children will be kept in consistent class or year group bubbles for PE and Games. Outdoor sport will be prioritised where possible and contact sports will be avoided. Sports equipment must be cleaned between each use by different year group bubbles. Staff are guided by the current guidelines for individual sports.

### **3.4.2**

Swimming lessons did not resume either as a curricular or extra-curricular activity during the Michaelmas Term or Lent Term national lockdown period. When swimming resumes in the Trinity Term, timetables are such that classes from different year groups do not swim consecutively in order to allow for adequate cleaning of the changing facilities and poolside between year group bubbles. Separate areas of the changing rooms have been allocated to each class and the poolside has also been demarcated for different year groups. The children only swim widths not lengths of the pool. No equipment is shared.

## **3.5 Extra-curricular provision (including dance and drama)**

### **3.5.1**

Some extra-curricular provision resumed in September. Activities are in year group bubbles. Providers are required to comply in full with the requirements of this Policy and any other related School policies in relation to COVID-19. They are also required to comply with the COVID-19 Risk Assessment in full. During the Lent Term national lockdown, all extra-curricular provision was suspended until 8 March 2021.

### **3.5.2**

Dance and drama activities only take place in year group bubbles and social distancing is maintained during the activities as far as possible. Background music will be kept to levels which do not require the teacher or children to raise their voices unduly. Where microphones are used, they will not be shared and they will be cleaned between usage. There will be no dance or drama activities during the Lent Term national lockdown. These resumed on 9 March 2021.

## **3.6 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

### **3.6.1**

A designated room has been set aside for any child who is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 such as a raised temperature, a new persistent cough or loss of taste or smell, or with diarrhoea, vomiting or abdominal cramps. There are separate toilet facilities adjacent to this room. A window must be opened for ventilation. The child will be supervised in this room by a member of staff wearing PPE whilst awaiting collection if a distance of 2m cannot be maintained. The room will be fully cleaned afterwards following current Government guidance. PPE will consist of a fluid-resistant surgical face mask (also known as Type IIR), disposable gloves and a disposable apron. Eye protection should be worn if there is a risk of splashing to the eyes from coughing, spitting or vomiting. PPE must be put on and taken off safely to avoid self-contamination. Face masks must cover both nose and mouth and not be allowed to hang around necks. They must not be touched once put on, except when carefully removed before disposal. They should be

changed if they become moist or damaged. They should only be used once and should then be discarded safely. Hands must be cleaned after disposal.

### **3.6.2**

Gloves are available for use by staff as required.

## **3.7 Cleaning**

### **3.7.1**

In line with the Public Health England Guidance: COVID-19: Cleaning in non-health care settings outside the home (October 2020), enhanced cleaning regimes are in place. These include an increased frequency of cleaning using standard products such as detergents and bleach, paying particular attention to all surfaces but especially those that are touched frequently such as door handles, light switches, work surfaces, and electronic devices. Wipes and cleaning products are available to all staff including water wipes for Chromebooks and other technologies. Waste should be disposed of as normal unless it is personal waste from a person who has symptoms of COVID-19.

### **3.7.2**

The minimum Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is disposable gloves and an apron which should be worn for cleaning an area after a person with symptoms of, or confirmed COVID-19 has left the School. Hands should be washed thoroughly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water after all PPE has been removed. All surfaces that a symptomatic person has come into contact with should be cleaned and disinfected, including all potentially contaminated and frequently touched areas such as toilets, door handles, telephones and rails in corridors and stairwells. Disposable cloths or paper roll should be used and disposable mop heads should also be used for all hard surfaces with one wipe in one direction. Appropriate cleaning solutions should be used for any such cleaning. In cases where someone has symptoms of COVID-19, any cleaning waste and personal waste should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full. It should then be put into a second bin bag and tied and secured. It should be safely stored for 72 hours before disposal.

## **4. FIRE SAFETY**

### **4.1**

All the precautions and procedures of Fire Safety Policy and Procedures will be followed including:

- Carrying out a fire drill as soon as possible after the start of the Michaelmas Term and at least termly thereafter.
- Ensuring that one or more competent persons is available during operating hours.
- Ensuring that all emergency exit routes are kept clear and that signage, emergency lighting, fire alarms, fire detectors and fire extinguishers are maintained in accordance with the required maintenance schedule and that these are tested on a regular basis.

### **4.2 Additional Precautions**

#### **4.2.1**

All adults supervising children in any capacity are responsible for ensuring that they know the safe evacuation routes from the classroom in which they are working.

#### **4.2.2**

All adults supervising children are responsible for ensuring that they have an accurate register of the children attending that day. They must also ensure that all the children for whom they are responsible evacuate from the buildings safely and are accounted for in the event of a fire evacuation. If there are any that are not accounted for then this must be reported to a senior member of staff without delay.

#### **4.2.3**

As far as possible social distancing will be maintained throughout a fire evacuation. The assembly points will be as set out in the Fire Policy and Procedures but with appropriate social distancing as far as possible, particularly between year group bubbles.

### **4.3 Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs)**

#### **4.3.1**

A Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan will be devised in accordance with the PEEPs Policy where required but with due regard to any additional requirements as set out in this Policy.

## **5. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND)**

### **5.1**

The Prep SENCO and the Pre-Prep SENCO will provide support to children with Learning Support needs through the distance learning programme and through individualised remote learning support should there be a further lock down period either nationally or locally. They are also available remotely for staff to consult about specific concerns about children.

## **6. EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE (EYFS)**

### **6.1**

The Statutory Framework for the EYFS, including the responsibilities for safeguarding and caring for the children must be followed. However, some temporary exemptions or amendments to these requirements were set out in the Government guidance issued on 24 April 2020 and updated on 9 December 2020. These will be applicable until the Government stipulates otherwise but potentially at least until 31 August 2021. These are to enable the School to use specific disapplications and modifications if any local or national government agreed COVID-19 restrictions impact on the School's ability to deliver the EYFS. These can be viewed in full [here](#) but the key changes applicable to the School are:

- The seven Areas of Learning and Development requirements and the 17 Early Learning Goals expectations for the end of Reception should be met as far as possible whilst it is recognised that there may be occasions when it is not possible to provide experiences and activities for all Areas.
- Staffing ratios remain the same. For classes where the majority of children will reach the age of 5 or older within the school year, there must be at least one member of staff for every 30 children and for all other classes there must be at least one member of staff for every 13 children, where a person with qualified teacher status, early years professional status, early years teacher status or another suitable Level 6 qualification is working directly with the children, then schools must make reasonable endeavours to ensure that at least one other member of staff holds a full and relevant Level 3 qualification. Where a person with qualified teacher status, early years professional status, early years teacher status or another suitable Level 6 qualification is not present then there must be at least one member of staff for every 8 children and schools should use reasonable endeavours to ensure that at least half of other staff hold at least a full and relevant Level 2 qualification.
- The School must use its best endeavours to ensure that there is at least one person with a full Paediatric First Aid qualification on site when the children are present. A full Risk Assessment will be carried out should it not be possible to have a member of staff with the relevant qualification present in School.

The School has ensured that a suitably qualified person with a Paediatric First Aid qualification has been available at school at all times when children have been present. The qualification requirements for staff have been met by the School at all times.

### **6.2**

Staff will continue to wear appropriate PPE for changing soiled clothing.

## **7. ATTENDANCE**

### **7.1**

As set out above, children should not attend school if they have symptoms or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) or if they are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household, in their support bubble or in their childcare bubble or a confirmed coronavirus case in their household, support bubble or childcare bubble. Children might also be required to self-isolate because they are a close contact of someone who

has symptoms or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) or because they are required by legislation to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine. Other than a national or local lockdown or following guidance from Public Health England, it is expected that all children will attend school unless they are unwell. In a future lockdown scenario, children who are clinically vulnerable might also be unable to attend. Parents are required to notify the School of their child's absence in line with the normal attendance procedures. During the Lent Term national lockdown, attendance at school was only for Nursery children, and for vulnerable children, children of critical workers, and children without appropriate access to the required technology. Attendance and absence registers are maintained for all children in line with the requirements for the current situation.

## **7.2**

There is an additional register code of 'X' for 2020-21 for children not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19). This code must only be used to record sessions where a pupil does not attend because their travel to, or attendance at, school would be:

- Contrary to guidance relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) from Public Health England and/or the Department of Health and Social Care;
- Prohibited by any legislation (or instruments such as statutory directions) relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

## **8. VISITS and VISITORS**

### **8.1**

Although Government guidance initially stated that educational visits could resume, the School does not intend to take children on any educational visits in the immediate future. Any such visits will have a comprehensive Risk Assessment which includes assessments of any associated COVID-19 related risks. There will be no external visitors such as Visiting Speakers during this period other than any provided remotely under the direct supervision of a member of staff and in line with the Policy for Visiting Speakers. If specialist support workers need to visit school such as Social Workers or Speech and Language therapists then they will be required to confirm that they do not have COVID-19 symptoms and are not required to self-isolate for any reason. They will be required to socially distance from the people they are visiting and come into contact with. No visits will take place during the Lent 2021 national lockdown period or for the remainder of the Lent Term. Visits will not take place during the first part of the Trinity Term.

## **9. REMOTE LEARNING**

### **9.1**

The remote learning programme was implemented during the first national lockdown in the Trinity Term. Teachers resumed an enhanced version of this programme with live teaching during the Lent Term national lockdown. Guidance has been provided to teachers on the expectations for this format for Distance Learning.

## **10. POLICY REVIEW**

### **10.1**

This Policy will be reviewed as required and, in particular in line with amendments to Government guidance, to ensure that it complies with requirements and to ensure that any changes in practices are accurately reflected. It will be presented to the Governors' Safeguarding, Health and Safety Committee for approval as required. The minutes of this meeting will be presented to a full Governors meeting.

## **Appendix I – Critical Management of the School**

Although no procedure will cover every eventuality, this appendix sets out a clear and concise format for the School to function for the good of all stakeholders in the event that one or more of the Senior Leadership Team contracts COVID-19.

### **1. Headmaster, Second Master and Bursar responsibilities**

- A. Should the **Headmaster** not be able to carry out his role, either in school or working from home, his duties will be transferred to the Second Master who will oversee day to day running of the School with the support of the Head of Prep and the Deputy Head Pre-Prep.
- B. Should the **Bursar** not be able to carry out his role, either in school or working from home, his role will be overseen directly by the Headmaster, who will delegate finance functions to the Finance Manager, and the estates matters to the Estates and Compliance Manager. Daily meetings will be held with the Headmaster (or Second Master).

The Estates and Compliance Manager will oversee the following:

- Fire safety checks
- Legionella checks
- Health and Safety checks
- All other ISI regulations

- C. Should the **Second Master** not be able to carry out her role, either in school or working from home, her role will be overseen directly by the Headmaster who will delegate responsibilities to the Deputy Head Pre-Prep who will oversee the day-to-day running of Pre-Prep and Designated Safeguarding Lead responsibilities to the Head of Prep (see also Section 3 below).

In the event that the **Headmaster, Bursar and Second Master** are all unable to carry out their roles either in School or by working from home, the Head of Prep will take responsibility as outlined above with support from other members of the Senior Leadership Team.

### **2. Head of Prep, Deputy Head Pre-Prep, Deputy Head Prep responsibilities**

- D. In the event that the **Head of Prep** is not be able to carry out his role, either in school or by working from home, the Deputy Head Prep will oversee his duties with support from the Headmaster and the Second Master.
- E. In the event that the **Deputy Head Pre-Prep** is unable to carry out her role either in School or by working from home, the Second Master will oversee the duties of the Deputy Head Pre-Prep with support from the Headmaster and the Assistant Head Teaching and Learning.
- F. In the event that the **Deputy Head Prep** is unable to carry out her role either in School or by working from home, the Head of Prep will oversee the duties of the Deputy Head Prep with support from the Headmaster and the Academic Team.

### **3. Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) responsibilities**

The main DSL for The Blue Coat School is Mrs Helen Andrews (Head of Pre-Prep and Second Master). She is supported in this role by three Deputy DSLs: Mr Robbie Newman (Head of Prep); Mrs Tracey Palmeri (Deputy Head Prep); and Mrs Helen West (Deputy Head Pre-Prep).

- G. In the event that the **main DSL**, Mrs Helen Andrews is unable to carry out her duties, Mr Newman will take the lead role in safeguarding matters with the support of Mrs Palmeri and Mrs West.
- H. In the event that **none of the DSLs** are able to carry out their duties, the Headmaster or his PA will inform staff of the contact at another local school whose main DSL will be able to provide support and guidance for the school.

