



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: June 2022 or sooner if required

COVID-19 POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1

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. The [Risk Assessment](#) is updated as and when there are changes in guidelines or practice. It also contains hyper-links to the relevant Government documentation.

1.2

During any 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.

1.3

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.

1.4

All staff, extra-curricular providers, Visiting Music Teachers, and any other professionals 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. PROCEDURES

2.1

It is no longer a requirement for children to test for COVID-19 the symptoms of which are: continuous cough; high temperature, fever, or chills; loss or, or change in, the normal sense of taste or smell; shortness of breath; feeling tired or exhausted; aching body; headache; sore throat; blocked nose or runny nose; loss of appetite; diarrhoea; and feeling sick or being sick.

2.2

Children with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or slight cough may still attend school. Children who have a temperature or who are unwell are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with others where possible. They may return to school when they are well enough and when they no longer have a temperature. Whilst testing is not recommended for children, children should stay at home for three days if they test positive.

2.3

Adults with Covid symptoms are advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well again. If they do leave home, the Government guidance is for adults to wear a mask and avoid crowded places to avoid infecting others. In the event of testing positive for COVID-19, adults are advised to stay at home for five days, or longer if still feeling unwell. Adults are advised to avoid close contact with any contacts known to be at higher risk of becoming seriously unwell if they are infected with COVID-19. However, close contacts of someone who has tested positive are no longer required to self-isolate or take daily tests. Guidance for household members is set out in the UKHSA guidance [Here](#).

2.4

Online maths and English lessons will be provided for children in Years 1- 6 who have tested positive and who are at home as set out in 2.2 above. These should only be accessed if children are well enough to do so. Age-appropriate lesson materials will also be posted on Google Classroom for children to access if they are well enough to do so.

2.5

Parents should continue to notify the school if their child has COVID-19 symptoms or if their child has tested positive for COVID-19. This can be done using the covid19@thebluecoatschool.com email address. All pupil absences must be reported to the School on the first day of any such absence. Staff must also notify the school if they have tested positive for COVID-19 using this email address.

2.6

The School will make notifications to public bodies such as the UKHSA regarding COVID cases at the school where required to do so and the School will act on any advice.

3. SCHOOL, LOCAL OR NATIONAL LOCKDOWNS

3.1

The School recognises that additional measures may be required to help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school; as part of a package of measures from the Government or the NHS responding to a Variant of Concern (VoC) or to extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community or to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS.

3.2

Any changes to procedures due to a School, local or national lockdown or any requirements to impose restrictions on our current practices will be communicated to governors, staff, and parents via a range of methods which may include virtual meetings and electronic communications. The Risk Assessment will be re-evaluated, and governors, staff and parents will be informed. Any restrictions on attendance would only be considered as a short-term measure and as a last resort. During any lockdown period or any period of phased or full return, the School will follow the DfE Guidelines and any NHS guidelines pertaining at any given time to ensure the safety of all children, staff, and parents as far as possible.

3.3 Remote Learning

3.3.1

Details of our Remote Learning provision are set out in Appendix 8 of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy which also sets out how the School would promote the safety of the children online and the safeguarding provisions that the School would make in the event of a School, local or national lockdown.

3.3.2

Support will be provided for children completing distance learning work at home through regular contact with staff both remotely and through regular phone calls. Any child thought to be vulnerable, or 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.

3.3.3

Support will be provided for children returning to school or starting at the school to help them to adjust to new or changed routines. Pastoral and mental health support will be provided to children as required.

3.3.4

Online safety will be actively promoted during any School, local or national lockdown. Parents and staff will be reminded about the requirements as set out in the School's Online Safety Policy, Remote Learning Policy, and ICT Acceptable Use Policies. Links to websites and apps will be checked by staff before signposting children to these in their Distance Learning.

3.3.5

Access to a Designated Safeguarding Lead will be provided to staff during the working day. This might be remotely. If 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 2.

3.4 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

3.4.1

The 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 lockdown period either nationally or locally. They are also available remotely for staff to consult about specific concerns about children.

3.5 Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

3.5.1

The Statutory Framework for the EYFS, including the responsibilities for safeguarding and caring for the children must be followed.

4. PRECAUTIONS

4.1

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 Links to websites and apps are checked by staff before signposting children to these.

4.2 Safe Working Practices for COVID-19

Safe working practices include:

- **Presence at school** – The attendance and isolation requirements are set out in Section 2 above.
- **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** – It is no longer a requirement for face masks to be worn in any situation although these can be worn if wished. In the event of a local outbreak, it may be necessary for further guidance on the wearing of face coverings to be issued.
- **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.
- **Cleaning** – Enhanced cleaning remains in place with cleaning of regularly touched surfaces cleaned at intervals during the day.
- **Minibuses and coaches** - Children will use minibuses and coaches to attend events such as fixtures or for visits. The minibuses will be cleaned by School staff and the coach companies will ensure that their vehicles are cleaned. All vehicles will be well-ventilated whilst in use. Staff and children will wash their hands before and after usage of these vehicles or use hand sanitiser if this is more practical.
- **Records** – Records are maintained of children and adults who have COVID-19 symptoms or who have tested positive for COVID-19.

5. FIRST AID

5.1

If a child becomes unwell with symptoms of COVID-19, they will be cared for in the Health Centre and parents will be contacted to collect the child. Ordinary first aid treatments may be carried out in alternative rooms if the Health Centre is being used for a child displaying COVID-19 symptoms and until it has been thoroughly cleaned after such usage.

6. VISITS and VISITORS

6.1

Comprehensive Risk Assessments which include assessments of any associated COVID-19 related risks are written for outings and visits. All visitors such as Visiting Speakers are required to comply with the Policy for Visiting Speakers. They should not attend school if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive. If specialist support workers need to visit school such as Social Workers or Speech and Language therapists, then they should not attend school if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive.

7. POLICY REVIEW

7.1

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.