Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Outbreak Management Plan

The Contingency Framework describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 (including responding to variants of concern) in education and childcare settings, covering:

- the types of measures that our setting should be prepared for

- who can recommend these measures and where

- when measures should be lifted

- how decisions are made.

Introduction

The government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to operate as normally as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Measures affecting education and childcare may be necessary in some circumstances, for example:

- to help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within a setting

- if there is extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community and other measures have failed to reduce transmission

- as part of a package of measures responding to a Variant of Concern (VoC)

All education and childcare settings should have outbreak management plans (sometimes called contingency plans) This plan includes how we will ensure every child, receives the quantity and quality of education and care to which they are normally entitled, should there be a local outbreak.

Roles and responsibilities

Local authorities, directors of public health (DsPH) and PHE health protection teams (HPTs) are responsible for managing localised outbreaks. They play an important role in providing support and advice to education and childcare settings.

Testing

We will consider increasing the use of home testing by staff.

Face coverings

We will ensure that face coverings continue to be worn by adults in communal areas if they wish.

Shielding

Shielding would be considered in addition to other measures to address the residual risk to people on the SPL, once the wider interventions are taken into account.

Shielding can only be reintroduced by national government.

Other measures

In case of a local outbreak school will reconsider any organised

- residential educational visits

- open days

- transition or taster days

- parental attendance in settings

- performances in settings

Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions should only ever be considered as a last resort. in extreme circumstances and as a last resort.

If some attendance restrictions are needed, all vulnerable children, children of critical workers, children in reception, year 1 and year 2 should still be allowed to attend.

High-quality remote education should be provided for all pupils or students not attending.

In all circumstances, priority should continue to be given to vulnerable children and young people and children of critical workers to attend to their normal timetables.

If, by exception, attendance is restricted further, vulnerable children and children of critical workers should still be allowed to attend.

Other considerations where attendance has been restricted

Education workforce

If restrictions on child, pupil and student attendance are needed, leaders will determine the workforce required onsite and if it is appropriate for some staff to work remotely.

Employers should have regard to the guidance on clinically extremely vulnerable people.

Employers should continue to implement the system of controls set out in the COVID-19 coronavirus operational guidance for your education setting. They should explain to staff the measures they are putting in place to reduce risks to staff, including how these protective measures have been reviewed as part of an updated workplace risk assessment.

Safeguarding and designated safeguarding leads

There should be no change to local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, which remain the responsibility of the 3 safeguarding partners:

- local authorities

- clinical commissioning groups

- chief officers of police

If attendance restrictions are needed in any education or childcare setting, we would expect all local safeguarding partners to be vigilant and responsive to all safeguarding threats with the aim of keeping vulnerable children and young people safe, particularly as more children and young people will be learning remotely.

All settings must continue to have regard to any statutory safeguarding guidance that applies to them, including:

- Keeping children safe in education

- Working together to safeguard children

- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework - read alongside Early years foundation stage: coronavirus disapplications

School (led by the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or a deputy) will review the child protection policy so that it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective.

It is expected that school will have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. However, it is recognised that this might be challenging if staff are affected by covid. In such cases, there are two options to consider:

- a trained DSL (or deputy) from school can be available to be contacted via phone or online video, for example working from home

- sharing trained DSLs (or deputies) with other school (who should be available to be contacted via phone or online video)

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to one of the above options, a senior leader should take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

Vulnerable children and young people

Where vulnerable children and young people are absent, school will:

- follow up with the parent or carer, working with the local authority and social worker (where applicable), to explore the reason for absence and discuss their concerns

- encourage the child or young person to attend educational provision, working with the local authority and social worker (where applicable), particularly where the social worker and the Virtual School Head (where applicable) agrees that the child or young person's attendance would be appropriate

- focus the discussions on the welfare of the child or young person and ensuring that the child or young person is able to access appropriate education and support while they are at home

- have in place procedures to maintain contact, ensure they are able to access remote education support, as required, and regularly check if they are doing so

If school has to temporarily stop onsite provision on public health advice, we will discuss alternative arrangements for vulnerable children and young people with the local authority.

School meals

School will continue to provide free school meals support in the form of meals or lunch parcels for pupils who are eligible for benefits related free school meals and who are not attending school because they:

- are self-isolating

- have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves

- are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19.

Educational visits

Any attendance restrictions should be reflected in the visits risk assessment and setting leaders will consider carefully if the educational visit is still appropriate and safe. Only children who are attending the setting should go on an educational visit. Education settings should consult the health and safety guidance on educational visits when considering visits.

Further detailed guidance for education and childcare settings and providers operating during coronavirus (COVID-19):

- actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 outbreak

- actions for schools during the COVID-19 outbreak

- actions for FE colleges and providers during the COVID-19 outbreak

- providing apprenticeships during the COVID-19 outbreak

- protective measures for holiday and after-school clubs, and other out-of-school settings during the COVID-19 outbreak

- guidance for special schools and other specialist settings: COVID 19

- guidance for higher education providers: COVID 19

- guidance for children's social care services

- holiday activities and food programme guidance for local authorities

- summer schools programme guidance

Information based on:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-restrictions-in-education-and-childcare-settings/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings