



Westcountry Schools Trust

Covid-19 School Contingency Plan

School name: **Plymstock School**

Date of completion: **September 2021**

Schools are required to think about taking extra action if the number of positive cases substantially increases. This is because it could indicate transmission is happening in the setting.

The thresholds, detailed below, should be used by schools as an indication for when to seek public health advice if they are concerned.

For most schools, this is whichever of these thresholds is reached first:

- 5 pupils or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; or
- 10% of pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

When the above thresholds are reached, we will review and reinforce the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures we already have in place.

We may need to seek additional public health advice if we are concerned about transmission in the school, either by phoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1) or in line with other local arrangements.

A Director of Public Health or an Health Protection Team may give advice reflecting the local situation. In areas where rates are high, this may include advice that local circumstances mean that the thresholds for extra action can be higher than set out above. If they judge that additional action should be taken, they might advise our school to take some or all of the other measures described in this plan, for example extra testing.

What follows are our contingency plans to cover how we would operate if any of the measures below were recommended for our school.

All schools should seek public health advice if a pupil or staff member is admitted to hospital with COVID-19. This can be done by phoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1), or in line with other local arrangements. Hospitalisation could indicate increased severity of illness or a new variant of concern. Settings may be offered public health support in managing risk assessments and communicating with staff and parents.

Contingency measure	Lead	Actions
Testing	MAT	<p>Where advised, we will be ready to reintroduce asymptomatic testing on site.</p> <p>These measures may be advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By local Directors of Public Health as part of their responsibilities in outbreak management, or • If our area has been offered an enhanced response package or we are in an enduring transmission area, where Directors of Public Health decide it is appropriate. <p>We would aim to implement testing in a way that does not negatively impact the education we provide for our pupils.</p> <p>However, no pupil will denied education if they choose not to participate in testing.</p>
Face coverings	RJD	<p>Initially, the recommended use of face coverings would be reinstated for pupils and staff in all communal areas, including corridors.</p> <p>If the outbreak continues to increase then a recommendation for the use of face coverings will then apply to the classroom.</p> <p>However, no pupil will denied education if they choose not to wear a face covering.</p>
Shielding	RJD/JDC/LLD	<p>Shielding is currently paused. In the event of a major outbreak or Variant of Concern (VoC) that poses a significant risk to individuals on the shielded patient list (SPL), ministers can agree to reintroduce shielding.</p> <p>Shielding would then 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.</p>
Other measures	RJD/ADY/MAT	<p>In the event of an major outbreak or VoC we will consider limiting some or all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full year group assemblies (or recommend face coverings for assemblies) • Sporting fixtures against other schools • Day educational visits • Residential educational visits (inc. travel abroad) • Open mornings and evenings • Transition or taster days • Parental attendance in settings (such as parents' evenings) • Live performances (such as school shows) • Face to face staff meetings

		Local Authorities, Directors of Public Health and Health Protection Teams may recommend these precautions in individual settings or across an entire area.
Attendance restrictions	RJD/ADY/LLD/MAT	<p>High quality face-to-face education remains a government priority. Attendance restrictions will only ever be considered as a short-term measure and as a last resort:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For individual settings, on public health advice in extreme cases where other recommended measures have not broken chains of in-setting transmission; or • Across an area, on government advice in order to suppress or manage a dangerous variant and to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS. <p>In all circumstances, we will give priority to vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers to attend to their normal timetables.</p> <p>If we are advised to temporarily limit attendance we will ensure that high-quality remote education is provided to all pupils not attending.</p>
Remote education	LLD/RFW/KMC/EMM	<p>We will provide high-quality remote education to pupils if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have tested positive for COVID-19 but are well enough to learn from home; or • Attendance at our school has been temporarily restricted <p>Where individuals are isolating, but the school remains fully open, we will be unable to deliver lessons via video. However, work will be set and monitored via Satchel One.</p> <p>On-site provision will in all cases be retained for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. In the unlikely event we have to temporarily stop onsite provision on public health advice, we will discuss alternative arrangements for vulnerable pupils with the local authority.</p>
Education workforce	RJD/LLD	If restrictions on pupil attendance are needed, the SLT will determine the workforce required onsite and if it is appropriate for some staff to work remotely. This will be determined by the number of pupils accessing onsite provision.
Safeguarding	ADY/JE	<p>Safeguarding will remain the highest priority in the event of a major outbreak and/or where attendance is restricted.</p> <p>We will continue to have regard to any statutory safeguarding guidance that applies to schools, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping children safe in education • Working together to safeguard children <p>Throughout any restrictions to attendance, we will ensure that we have a trained DSL or DDSL on site at all times during school hours.</p>

Vulnerable pupils	ADY/JE	<p>Where vulnerable pupils are absent where onsite provision is available, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 pupil 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 pupil's attendance would be appropriate • Focus the discussions on the welfare of the pupil 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 <p>If we have to temporarily stop onsite provision on public health advice, we will discuss alternative arrangements for vulnerable pupils with the local authority.</p>
Transport	MAT	<p>Transport services to school will continue to be provided as normal.</p> <p>The use of face coverings will be recommended in these circumstances.</p>
School meals	JDC/MAT/RB	<p>We will continue to provide meal options for all pupils who are in school. Meals should be available free of charge to all pupils who meet the benefits-related free school meals eligibility criteria.</p> <p>We will also 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 have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves.</p>