

## COVID-19: Operational risk assessment

Please note: this risk assessment should be undertaken in conjunction with the operational guidance for schools issued by the DfE on **19/1/22**:

[Schools COVID 19 Operational Guidance](#)

### Control Measures

The previous system of controls is replaced by the following control measures:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
4. Follow Public Health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid 19

<b>Assessment conducted by:</b>	W Pratt	<b>Job title:</b>	Principal	<b>Covered by this assessment</b>	Staff, pupils, contractors, visitors, volunteers
<b>Date of assessment:</b>	<b>21.1.22</b>	<b>Review interval:</b>	Half termly	<b>Date of next review:</b>	<b>February 2022</b>

Related documents	
<b>Trust documents:</b> Contingency Risk Assessment	<b>Government guidance:</b> <a href="#">Actions for early years and childcare providers</a> <a href="#">Use of PPE in education and childcare settings</a> <a href="#">PHE cleaning of non-healthcare settings</a> <a href="#">HSE guidance on air conditioning and ventilation</a> <a href="#">DfE contingency Framework</a>

## Risk matrix

Risk rating High (H), Medium (M), Low (L)		Likelihood of occurrence		
		Probable	Possible	Remote
Likely impact	<b>Major:</b> Causes major physical injury, harm or ill-health.	H	H	H
	<b>Severe:</b> Causes physical injury or illness requiring first aid.	H	M	L
	<b>Minor:</b> Causes physical or emotional discomfort.	M	L	L

Areas for concern	Risk rating prior to action (H/M/L)	Control measures	In place? (Yes/No)	Further action/comments	Residual risk rating (H/M/L)
<b>1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone</b>					
<b>1.1 Hand hygiene</b>					
Inadequate access to hand washing means that pupils and staff do not maintain good hand hygiene	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring arrangements are in place to ensure that supplies of soap are maintained throughout the day in all designated hand washing areas.</li> <li>Additional external wash basins have been provided at key points around the school.</li> </ul>	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>External sanitisation stations remain in place at entry points to the academy and outside the dining hall.</li> <li>Students line up outside and must use the sanitisation station before entering the dining hall. In wet weather situations all students use hand sanitiser</li> </ul>	M

<p><b>Pupils forget to wash their hands regularly and frequently</b></p>	<p>H</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff training includes the need to remind pupils of the need to wash their hands regularly and frequently, particularly before and after eating, after using the toilet and after sneezing or coughing into hands.</li> <li>• Posters and electronic messaging boards reinforce the need to maintain good hand hygiene.</li> </ul>	<p>Y</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff members have a high presence on morning duty by the sanitisation stations to ensure all students wash hands on entry.</li> <li>• Student self regulation in this area is high</li> </ul>	<p>M</p>
<p><b>1.2 Additional Hygiene</b></p>					

<p>Virus spreads through aerosol transmission in enclosed spaces</p>	<p>H</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posters and electronic messaging boards reinforce the need to maintain good respiratory hygiene, including the 'Catch It, Bin It, Kill It' message</li> <li>• Posters will be displayed in communal areas and in areas that are difficult to ventilate, asking staff, students and visitors to move quickly through that area</li> <li>• From 20 January 2022, wearing of face masks in classrooms will no longer be a requirement. However, schools may choose to keep this in place where infection rate remain high</li> <li>• From 27 January 2022, wearing of face masks in communal areas will no longer be a requirement. However, schools may choose to keep this in place where infection rate remain high</li> <li>• From 27 January 2022, wearing of face masks on public transport will no longer be a requirement. However, schools may choose to encourage this where infection rates remain high</li> <li>• School will consider any local advice from the Director of Public Health in relation to additional locally imposed restrictions.</li> </ul>	<p>Y</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff to utilise the posters, briefing slides to model best practises and where/ when students should be wearing face coverings.</li> <li>• Face coverings are advised where ventilation and space is minimal</li> <li>• Pupils or students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.</li> </ul>	<p>M</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils or students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.</li> <li>• Visitors to the school, including parents and carers, will be strongly encouraged to undertake a rapid test prior to entering the setting. This will be communicated to all parents/carers.</li> <li>• From 19 January 2022, colleagues will no longer need to work from home. There is no requirement for formally vulnerable or extremely vulnerable colleagues to shield.</li> </ul>			
<b>Appropriate PPE is not available or worn</b>	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPE levels are assessed on site regularly to ensure adequate stocks are available.</li> <li>• PPE should be worn when staffing the ATS, when supporting a symptomatic individual or when cleaning an area used by a symptomatic individual</li> </ul>	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular stock check and ensure that orders are made prior to deadlines.</li> <li>• Provide reminders of expectations of systems of control.</li> </ul>	M
<b>2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes</b>					
<b>2.1 Cleaning</b>					
<b>Cleaning capacity is reduced so that appropriate cleaning standards cannot be maintained</b>	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dining areas, toilets and high frequency areas are prioritised for cleaning throughout the day</li> <li>• Cleaning logs completed in key areas e.g. toilets, dining and high frequency areas</li> </ul>	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased cleaning of these priority areas by Churchills.</li> </ul>	M
<b>3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated</b>					
<b>3.1 Maximise ventilation</b>					

<p><b>Aerosol transmission is increased due to lack of ventilation in enclosed spaces</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spaces with poor ventilation have been identified and where ventilation cannot be improved, their occupation will be limited</li> <li>• Doors (not fire doors) and windows will be opened where possible to encourage natural ventilation of rooms and spaces (with the exception of fire doors)</li> <li>• Where there is mechanical ventilation this will be turned to full natural air flow if possible, or used in conjunction with natural air flow</li> <li>• CO2 monitors will be deployed to identify any areas of poor ventilation and actions taken to maximise this where needed and possible</li> </ul>	<p>Y</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CO2 monitors are placed in the rooms to monitor ventilation. If readings are high, application to be made to DfE for ventilation purifier systems. Current levels are within the guidelines.</li> <li>• Provide temporary alteration to the uniform policy to allow students to wear plain black jumpers to ensure classrooms can remain ventilated.</li> <li>• Classrooms are to maintain well ventilated rooms with windows and doors open.</li> </ul>	<p>M</p>
<p><b>4. Follow Public Health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19</b></p>					
<p><b>4.1 Communication</b></p>					

<p><b>Staff, pupils and parents are not aware of the school's procedures (including on self-isolation and testing) should anyone display symptoms of COVID-19</b></p>	<p>H</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff, pupils and parents have received clear communications informing them of current government guidance on the actions to take should anyone display symptoms of COVID-19 and how this will be implemented in the school.</li> <li>• This guidance has been explained to staff and pupils as part of the induction process.</li> <li>• Any updates or changes to this guidance are communicated in a timely and effective way to all stakeholders.</li> <li>• Communication sent to all parents on using the NHS Covid-19 app</li> <li>• The school can refuse a pupil if a parent insists on sending them to school with COVID-19 symptoms</li> <li>• <b>Staff and children who test positive to self isolate in line with current government guidance.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Y</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Omicron close contacts required to isolate only if they are showing symptoms, or have a positive LFD test</li> <li>• Close contact family - required to complete LFD test daily</li> <li>• Information added to tutor time to ensure students are aware.</li> <li>• Information added in briefing to ensure staff have good understanding. of school systems of control.</li> </ul>	<p>M</p>
<p><b>4.2 Isolating symptomatic children and staff</b></p>					
<p><b>Symptomatic staff and children cannot be isolated in school whilst awaiting transport home to maintain infection control</b></p>	<p>H</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social distancing provisions are in place for isolation rooms.</li> <li>• Additional rooms are designated for pupils or staff with suspected COVID-19 whilst collection is arranged.</li> <li>• Procedures are in place for isolation rooms to be cleaned after suspected COVID-19 cases, along with other affected areas, including toilets.</li> <li>• Doors and windows will be opened to encourage natural ventilation of rooms and spaces (with the exception of fire doors)</li> </ul>	<p>Y</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Those in close contact to a positive case to undertake daily contact testing and continue to attend school unless testing positive or showing symptoms of Covid 19.</b></li> <li>• Add information into tutor time to ensure students are aware.</li> <li>• Information circulated in staff briefing to ensure</li> </ul>	<p>M</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where there is mechanical ventilation this will be turned to full natural air flow if possible, or used in conjunction with natural air flow.</li> <li>Staff and students will be advised to avoid public transport as a means of getting home</li> <li>They will be advised to book a confirmatory PCR test</li> <li>Those in close contact to a positive case undertake daily contact testing and continue to attend school unless testing positive or showing symptoms of Covid 19.</li> </ul>		staff have good understanding.	
<b>4.4 Testing and managing symptoms</b>					
Regular weekly testing is not used effectively to help manage staffing levels and support staff wellbeing	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Twice weekly home LFD testing available for staff and students</li> <li>Confirmatory PCR test no longer required following a positive LTD test</li> <li>The guidance has been explained to staff as part of the induction process.</li> </ul>	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include the promotion of twice a week testing in all parental communications.</li> <li>Ensure students and staff are reminded of where they can access LFD tests to take home.</li> <li>Good historical uptake of testing and vaccination by the student body.</li> </ul>	M
<b>5. Well Being and Support</b>					
<b>5.1 Mental health concerns – pupils</b>					
Pupils' mental health has been adversely affected during the period that the school has been closed and by the COVID-19 crisis in general	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are sufficient numbers of trained staff available to support pupils with mental health issues.</li> <li>There is access to designated staff for all pupils who wish to talk to someone about wellbeing/mental health.</li> <li>Wellbeing/mental health is discussed regularly in PSHE/virtual assemblies/pupil</li> </ul>	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to train staff in mental health courses, including mental health first aid.</li> <li>Continue to provide the support of the school coach (therapist) as a</li> </ul>	M



		<p>briefings (stories/toy characters are used for younger pupils to help talk about feelings).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resources/websites to support the mental health of pupils are provided.</li> </ul>		<p>weekly intervention for students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remind parents and carers of locality services prior to holiday periods.</li> </ul>	
<b>Additional safeguarding concerns are identified on children's return to school</b>	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff will receive safeguarding training as part of the INSET on the first day of term</li> </ul>			
<b>5.2 Mental health concerns – staff</b>					
<b>The mental health of staff has been adversely affected during the period that the school has been closed and by the COVID-19 crisis in general</b>	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff are encouraged to focus on their wellbeing.</li> <li>Line managers are proactive in discussing wellbeing with the staff that they manage, including their workload.</li> <li>Staff briefings and training have included content on wellbeing.</li> <li>Staff briefings/training on wellbeing are provided.</li> <li>Staff have been signposted to useful websites and resources.</li> <li>Staff are encouraged to use the staff EAP</li> </ul>	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff directed to HR for support; promote the EAP staff support program in line management meetings and appropriate return to work meetings.</li> <li>Maintain a wellbeing slide on every staff briefing.</li> </ul>	M
<b>6. Education Recovery</b>					
<b>6.1 Attendance concerns</b>					
<b>Children do not attend school consistently as habits and social norms have changed</b>	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The need and value of attendance at school will be regularly reinforced with children and families</li> <li>PR campaigns regarding attendance will be launched</li> <li>Attendance staffing requirements will be kept under review to ensure that all absence is chased effectively</li> <li>Regular safeguarding phone calls to those children not attending</li> </ul>	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance is high profile in staff briefing - for staff and tutor time for students.</li> <li>Promote understanding of good attendance and the benefits for better life choices and opportunities.</li> </ul>	L

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance fines will be reintroduced</li> <li>EHE is discouraged where requested by parents/carers</li> <li>Any concerns about EHE and child safety are reported to DSL and safeguarding policy followed</li> <li>X code will be used in registers where students are self isolating e.g. quarantine, or I code used when isolating due to COVID symptoms or a positive LFD test</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review X codes - for isolating students</li> <li>Positive student attendance is promoted throughout the academy.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Children do not attend at the start of term due to isolating requirements after returning from abroad</b></p>	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children and parents will be reminded of the need to follow government guidance on quarantine and testing following foreign travel</li> <li>Blended learning will be offered where possible in these circumstances</li> <li>Y code will be used in registers if absence is the result of travel disruption and quarantine requirements</li> <li>Where absence is the result of choosing to stay abroad or trying to avoid quarantine - unauthorised absence will be recorded in the register</li> </ul>	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicate directly to parents via website, email and social media - regarding government travel guidance.</li> <li>Good attendance to maintain a high profile in Tutor time and staff briefing</li> <li>Blended learning for students not attending or partial closures.</li> </ul>	L
<b>6.2 Closing the Gap</b>					
<p><b>Pupils have fallen behind in their learning during school closures and achievement gaps have widened</b></p>	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High quality remote and blended learning provision for all children isolating</li> <li>Technology provided to support remote learning where children cannot attend school</li> <li>Gaps in learning are assessed and addressed in teachers' short, medium and longer term planning</li> <li>Praising stars will be used to assess the impact of interventions</li> </ul>	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure all students are invited to Google Classrooms.</li> <li>Identify those who are most likely to have had challenges with remote learning (SEND and Disadvantaged). For additional support within the academy.</li> </ul>	M

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curriculum has been re-ordered to focus on learning priorities for the phase of education if it cannot all be caught up</li> <li>Plans for intervention are in place for those pupils who have fallen behind in their learning</li> <li>Additional catch up and recovery funding will be focused to ensure it targets children who have missed learning, this may include NTP, 1:1, summer schools etc</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NTP organised for science KS4 and maths KS3.</li> <li>Intervention for students adversely impacted by loss of learning.</li> <li>Additional specialist Literacy and numeracy Teaching Assistants to support learning</li> </ul>	
<b>7. Operational issues</b>					
<b>7.1 Reduced staffing</b>					
<b>Staff are required to isolate following holidays abroad, making them unavailable for the start of the new term</b>	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff have been advised to follow government advice on the booking of holidays</li> <li>All staff have been advised of the need to be available for work and to plan any quarantine timings into their holiday plans</li> <li>Staff managing attendance policy and absence policies to be followed</li> </ul>	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reminder within staff briefing of quarantine rules.</li> <li>Staff absence monitoring to occur as normal with OGAT HR support.</li> <li>Covid attendance addendum extended to August 2022.</li> </ul>	L
<b>Transmission rates in staff lead to a reduced workforce</b>	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We shall be mindful not to create scenarios that could lead to increased transmission e.g. good ventilation when bringing staff together and in office spaces</li> </ul>	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online briefing / meetings to continue as appropriate to avoid high transmission rates</li> <li>Staff to ensure rooms are well ventilated</li> <li>Staff may continue to wear face coverings should they wish to as appropriate.</li> </ul>	M

<p><b>Staff test positive of COVID- 19</b></p>	<p>M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cover would be put in place to ensure learning continues</li> <li>● On rare occasions, staff who are non-symptomatic may wish to still deliver their planned lessons remotely. Supervision would be provided in school in these lessons.</li> <li>● Staff Attendance Policy - COVID Addendum will remain in place to August 2022</li> <li>● Partial closure will be considered as a final resort if staff absence levels have a significant impact on the health and safety requirements of the school - high quality online learning will be put in place for those students</li> </ul>	<p>Y</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● staff to regularly (twice weekly) complete the LFD test.</li> <li>● Communicate with positive tested staff to identify where they are non symptomatic.</li> <li>● Ensure rigorous recording of staff absence.</li> <li>● close contacts to test daily and complete a PCR if they have symptoms or a positive LFD.</li> </ul>	<p>L</p>
<p><b>7.2 Sustained Improvement Plan Progress</b></p>					
<p><b>Limited progress with the school's improvement plan as a result of COVID</b></p>	<p>M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will share the school's SIP and agree short, medium and long term actions.</li> </ul>	<p>Y</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continue to review as part of SLT meetings.</li> </ul>	<p>L</p>
<p><b>7.3 Policy review</b></p>					
<p><b>Existing policies are no longer fit for purpose in the current circumstances</b></p>	<p>H</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All relevant policies have been revised to take account of government guidance on COVID-19 and its implications for the school</li> <li>● Staff attendance Addendum will remain in place to August 2022.</li> <li>● Staff, pupils, parents and governors have been briefed accordingly</li> </ul>	<p>Y</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Policies shared with Academy Council.</li> <li>● Staff attendance addendum remains in place to August 2022</li> <li>● Policies updated on website and staff drive and communicated accordingly</li> </ul>	<p>M</p>
<p><b>7.4 School Visits, Trips &amp; Events</b></p>					

<p><b>The resumption of school visits poses risks to infection control</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● International trips that have previously been deferred can be re-booked after September 2021, taking account of government guidance on foreign travel</li> <li>● Future international trips can be booked after September 2021, taking account of government guidance on foreign travel</li> <li>● Domestic day trips can go ahead with appropriate risk assessment in place</li> <li>● Domestic residential trips can go ahead with appropriate risk assessments in place</li> <li>● Trip risk assessments must detail how the following will be addressed:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Contingency plans in case a member of the trip becomes symptomatic</li> <li>○ arrangements for cleaning and sanitisation of bathrooms, kitchens, dining, frequent touch areas and communal areas</li> <li>○ Ventilation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Y</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Detailed risk assessments still required.</li> <li>● Some local trips are now occurring.</li> <li>● Where this involves transport then students and staff will wear face coverings.</li> <li>● There are no future international trips booked at this point.</li> </ul>	<p>M</p>
<p><b>8. Contingency Planning</b></p>					
<p><b>Outbreak management plans are not in place and the school is within an outbreak area</b></p>	<p>M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Our outbreak management plans cover the possibility that in some local areas it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups. Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of 'bubbles' will not be taken lightly and would need to take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education. Advice from PHE will be sought</li> </ul>	<p>Y</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Academy follows government guidelines and will reintroduce face coverings and partial closures as part of the Academy Outbreak management plan</li> <li>● The academy is currently compliant with the NYCC Public Health advice for school settings.</li> </ul>	<p>L</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If several confirmed cases are reported within a 14 day period in school, this will be notified via the DfE helpline 08000468687</li><li>• Advice of the local Director of Public Health will be followed in stepping up or stepping down control measures</li><li>• Where necessary, all or elements of the contingency risk assessment will be put into place</li></ul>			
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