

COVID-19 Risk Assessment - 4th January 2021 (Plan B / Omicron)

Newland School for Girls

Background :

This risk assessment prepares the school for changes announced by the DfE during the Christmas Break 2021/22 in relation to the National Plan B situation and the threat posed by the Omicron variant.

This risk assessment does not cover all aspects of a possible response of the school where there is a COVID-19 outbreak. This information is in the ***Thrive: COVID-19 Contingency Plan (outbreak management plan) December 2021***, a copy of which is on the school website.

Full consideration has been given to the local Public Health advice.

Key documents considered:

- [Schools COVID-19 operational guidance \(January 2022\)](#)
- [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic \(January 2022\)](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): advice for pregnant employees \(14th December 2021\)](#)
- [Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person \(23rd December 2021\)](#)
- [Guidance on protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 \(December 2021\)](#)
- [When to self isolate and what to do \(31st December 2021\)](#)
- [Contingency framework: education and childcare settings \(December 2021\)](#)
- [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings outside the home \(July 2021\)](#)
- [NHS Test and Trace in the workplace \(23rd December 2021\)](#)
- [Coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread \(24th December 2021\)](#)

How this was created and how to use the form:

This Risk Assessment has been updated by the Thrive Executive team on 04.01.22 in response to amendments to government guidance during the 'Plan B' period in light of the threat posed by the Omicron variant.

This risk assessment incorporates a PHE endorsed 'system of controls' - *prevention* (marked 'P' in the document) and *response to any infection* (marked 'R' in the document) - and will create an environment for children and staff where the risk of transmission of infection is safely managed.

The Headteacher / Head of School is responsible for amending this risk assessment to local circumstances.

Information that is new for 4th January 2022 is highlighted in yellow.

Information that is new for 6th January 2022 is highlighted in blue.

Information that is new for 11th January 2022 is highlighted in orange.

Activity/Area: Whole school COVID-19 infection reduction	People at Risk: Pupils, Staff, Parents
Risk assessment created for Thrive schools by Executive Team	Date: 27.08.21 Review Date: 26/1/22
Name of Person Completing Form: ???	Date: 1st Sept 2021
Job Title: Executive Headteacher / Headteacher / Head of School	Updated: 4th January 2022

Risk	Hazard	Initial Rating L, M, H	Control Measures	Final Rating L, M, H	Additional Action Required (by whom and completion date)
Infection with COVID-19 spreading amongst pupils, staff and parents	Pupils attending with COVID-19 symptoms	H	Clear communication with parents / carers about the need to keep children with symptoms at home and self-isolate. R	M	
			Systems in place for parents / carers to contact the school immediately on discovering symptoms. R		
			Staff remain vigilant and ask children how they are and check for any symptoms and onwardly communicate. R & P		
			If a parent wishes to send their child to school with COVID-19 symptoms the school to refuse admittance. P		
			Schools use the extended symptoms list to include the cardinal 3 symptoms plus Delta variant symptoms; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a temperature or 37.8 deg or higher (Cardinal) ● a new continuous cough (Cardinal) ● a change to or loss of taste and smell (Cardinal) ● Headache (Delta) ● Sore throat (Delta) ● Tiredness (Delta) ● Cold-like symptoms (Delta) 		
Secondary schools will make arrangements for the LFD testing of all pupils in the first school week of January 2022 and encourage twice weekly testing at home thereafter and remind parents about this by text alert twice a week. Primary schools will encourage families to LFD test their children twice weekly and remind parents about this by text alert twice a week. P					

	Staff have COVID-19 symptoms (see list above) and / or test positive for COVID-19	H	Staff should not attend and should take an LFD test and, where this is positive, should seek a PCR test. Where the PCR result is positive staff should report the outcome to school as soon as it is received. Where the PCR test is negative they can attend school. R & P	L	
	A child or member of staff has suspected COVID-19 symptoms at school.	H	<p>Staff alert a designated member of staff to collect the child from their room and arrange for family member to immediately pick-up. R</p> <p>Child with symptoms isolated in a well ventilated designated room with 2m social distancing. If this is not possible staff will wear PPE supplied by the school (FFP2 or FFP3 fluid resistant surgical mask - gloves - apron) R</p> <p>If the child is coughing / spitting eye protection must be worn. R</p> <p>If necessary staff call 999. R</p> <p>Advise the adult collecting a child to seek a LFD test, stressing the need to keep school informed of the outcome. Where the outcome is positive inform family to get a PCR test and report the result to school. R & P</p>	M	
	A child or staff member has tested positive for COVID-19	H	<p>Where a staff member or pupil has tested positive on an LFD test and is asymptomatic they should inform the school and remain in isolation for the 7 days from the positive LFD result.</p> <p>Where the Child / Staff member tests positive on an LFD test and they are symptomatic they should seek a PCR test and remain at home for the 7 days from the first symptom / Positive LFD result until their period of isolation is completed. R & P</p> <p>SLT, decide if this infection, in conjunction with others, reaches the threshold for possible implementation of the COVID-19 contingency plan. If that plan is to be invoked SLT take advice from LA Public Health Team and seek recommendations to follow. R & P</p> <p>If the COVID-19 contingency plan is not to be invoked staff monitor the wellbeing of those concerned on a daily basis. R & P</p> <p>A 'warn and inform letter' is sent to alert families and pupils that there has been a positive case in the class / group so that parents can be vigilant for signs of illness and seek a PCR test if they are concerned. R & P</p>	M	

			School will consider how to minimise, or suspend, those activities that are especially close (e.g. dance, performing arts). R & P		
			School will consider how to give additional advice and protection to clinically vulnerable / clinically extremely vulnerable staff and pupils, especially where they aren't fully vaccinated. R & P		
			Pupils and staff members take a LFD test on day 6 and 7 of their isolation. Pupils and staff may return to school after a second negative LFD result, which could be as early as day 7 of their isolation. P		
	A family member , or a member of the school community, has tested positive and a child or staff member is a close contact.	M	<p>Pupils and staff who are close contacts of household members or any other form of contact continue to attend school (unless a staff member has not been fully vaccinated, or the notification is for the Omicron variant (see below)) and will be actively encouraged to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seek a PCR test. P ● Wear a face covering at school. P ● Limit close contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable (discuss this with headteacher / head of school). P ● Take NHS rapid lateral flow test every day for 7 days to help slow the spread of COVID-19 P 	L	
	A family member, or a staff member, is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for the Omicron variant.	H	If someone is identified as a close contact of someone with the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, they will be required to self-isolate and asked to book a PCR test. P	L	
			Once the government has established daily PCR testing for close contacts of Omicron cases, staff should take part in this testing. P	L	
	A staff member hasn't reported an LFD result	H	All staff members must report their LFD results, either positive or negative to the school and to the government's website .	L	
	A staff member has been given instruction by 'Track and Trace'	H	Staff members immediately share the instruction they have been given by Track and Trace with school and follow all instruction given P	L	
	Staff are not aware of their COVID-19 status	M	All staff must be strongly encouraged to have a twice weekly lateral flow test. P	L	
	Staff are not aware of their COVID-19 status	M	All staff are encouraged to take an LFD test twice weekly and report these results to the school (whether positive or negative)	L	

			using the Trust's google form, and to the government Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result website . P		
			All staff closely follow the guidance on how to properly take an LFD test. P		
			All staff are encouraged to continue twice weekly LFD testing throughout school holiday periods.		
	Schools are unaware of a pupil's or staff member's COVID status	H	All staff must inform school of any positive COVID result and schools must record this in the 'Symptoms Log' for recording possible illness / test results / possible close contacts etc, and update this log when someone's status changes. P	L	
	'Clinically vulnerable' (including pregnant women post 28 weeks) and 'clinically extremely vulnerable' staff and pupils exposed to COVID-19	H	Individual risk assessments carried out. P	M	
Referral to Occupational Health as necessary or as requested. P					
School provides colleagues who are clinically extremely vulnerable with FFP2 or FFP3 fluid resistant surgical mask					
Pregnant staff attend work following acceptable risk assessment until after 28 weeks. After 28 weeks they work from home unless they request to attend work and a risk assessment is supported by occupational health. P					
	Visitors to school are unaware of COVID-19 safety arrangements	H	On arrival to school all visitors use hand sanitiser.	L	
			Prior to arrival visitors are informed of the need to supply the school with evidence of a negative COVID test carried out that day.		
	Staff / visitors are not aware of arrangements for holding meetings.	M	Meeting face-to-face sometimes has great advantages, and at other times may be unnecessary. Staff should hold meetings remotely with outsiders wherever possible. P	L	
			Visitors should follow the schools current guidelines on the wearing of face coverings. P		
			Governance meetings will be held remotely. P		
			Meeting between staff should be reduced to a minimum and taken online wherever possible. Where staff meet together (e.g.		

			in phases or departments) these groups are to be regarded as bubbles and should avoid mixing with other staff groups.		
	Staff are not vaccinated	H	Schools must actively encourage vaccination, second dose vaccination and booster vaccination. P	M	
			When a staff member is a close contact of someone with COVID schools will ask their vaccination status. If they are unvaccinated they will be required to self-isolate.		
	Pupils aged 12-15 are not vaccinated	H	Schools must actively encourage vaccination, second dose vaccination and booster vaccination. P	L	
	Insufficient compliance with risk assessment.	H	All office staff who can work from home should do so from 13th December 2021.	L	

Activity/Area: Hygiene and face coverings	People at Risk: Pupils, Staff, Parents
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Infection with COVID-19 spreading amongst pupils, staff and parents	Pupils are unaware of rules	H	Staff frequently remind children of hygiene rules. P	L	
			Signage around school - classrooms, toilets, shared rooms, entrances. P		
			Young pupils and pupils with complex needs will be supported in their hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene. P		
	Pupils don't clean hands well enough	H	Staff reinforce previously delivered handwashing messages. Wash for 20 seconds in the prescribed way ensuring all parts of the hands are covered. P	L	
			Pupils use soap and water, and where this is not available hand sanitiser. P		
	Pupils don't clean hands often enough	H	Pupils to wash their hands immediately on arrival, after visiting the toilet, before and after eating, on entering the building, and after sneezing or coughing. Staff to supervise this as appropriate. P	L	
	Pupils don't use good respiratory hygiene	H	Staff promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' message. P	L	
Tissues are to be available for all pupils at all times for coughing and sneezing. P					
Incorrect disposal of used tissues and hand towels	H	All used hand towels to be placed in bins emptied frequently by the cleaning team. P	L		

			Flip top bins used for dirty tissues emptied and double-bagged twice a day. P		
	Touching hands, eyes and nose	H	Children will be taught not to touch hands, eyes and nose, mouths. P	M	
	Primary age Pupils wearing face coverings in classrooms	M	Unless there is an outbreak declared by public health primary age pupils will not wear face coverings in classrooms. P	L	
	Secondary age Pupils wearing face coverings in classrooms	M	All secondary age pupils are to be required to wear a face covering in classrooms. Schools will provide face coverings where needed. P	L	
	Pupils mixing	M	Wherever practicable schools should minimise mixing of pupils and keep groups as consistent as possible. Assemblies and other gatherings will be conducted online, or within consistent groups in person (such as a year group or a phase), but whole school assemblies will not take place. Wherever practicable schools should use staggered lunch breaks, and other measures that avoid queuing (including 'soft starts').	L	
	Staff, visitors and pupils not wearing face coverings in shared / communal areas	M	Staff, visitors and pupils will wear face coverings in shared / communal indoor areas (schools to provide these). P	L	
	Lack of PPE when dealing with young children	M	Adults to be provided with PPE to wear when dealing with young children needing assistance. P	L	

Activity/Area: Classrooms and educational visits	People at Risk: Pupils, Staff, Parents
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Risk	Hazard	Initial Rating L, M, H	Control Measures	Final Rating L, M, H	Additional Action Required (by whom and completion date)
Infection with COVID-19 spreading amongst pupils, staff and parents	Insufficient ventilation	M	SLT review ventilation across the school to identify poor ventilation in enclosed spaces and make arrangements not to use these areas. P	L	
			SLT ensure that air conditioning units and other airflow systems meet ventilation requirements. P		
			Open windows and prop open doors where it is safe to do so (not fire doors). P		
			Schools' site staff monitor air quality using the equipment provided and where CO2 levels are consistently above 800ppm consider mitigations which may include temporarily vacating a room and liaising with Trust staff to improve ventilation via the installation of extra windows or supplemental ventilation equipment		
			Windows to be open at all times unless mechanical ventilation is sufficient. P		
Sharing equipment and resources in EYFS		H	Staff should ensure that toys and other equipment are cleaned regularly. P	L	
			Children will be taught to wash their hands frequently, particularly after using wheeled bikes, trikes and other large, movable equipment. P		
Sharing equipment and resources in Y1 to Y6		H	Staff should ensure that toys and other equipment are cleaned regularly. P	L	

	Lack of communication with office / SLT	H	Staff use their mobile phones, group messaging or class phones to call for assistance. P	L	
	Contact with members of the public on educational visits	H	SLT to advise staff on how to implement protective measures and risk assessments. Risk assessments must be carried out. P	L	

Activity/Area: Cleaning	People at Risk: Pupils, Staff, Parents
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Infection with COVID-19 spreading amongst pupils, staff and parents	Training for cleaners is not up to date	H	CFO to ensure thorough training for cleaners - and to agree processes and procedures and share with all cleaning staff where required.	L	
	Premises are not cleaned often enough	H	Premises will be cleaned at the end of the school day and frequently touched surfaces (such as doors) regularly throughout the day using standard products.	L	
			Increased cleaning hours where required.		
			Increased cleaning of toilet facilities.		

Activity/Area: Staffing	People at Risk: Pupils, Staff, Parents
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Infection with COVID-19 spreading amongst pupils, staff and parents	Staff need training in new rules, routines and risk assessment	H	SLT arranges remote training using Thrive resources, for all staff for the start of the Autumn. P	L		
	Not knowing who is available for work	H	Schools maintain Thrive confidential records for recording staff availability. P	L		
	Staff unavailability - short term	M	Staff inform school immediately on any change to their health status and availability. P	L		
	Leadership availability		M	DSL or DDSL available at all times. P	L	
				SLT member on site at all times. P		
				SENCo available at all times. P		
	First aid availability		M	First aider on site at all times. P	L	
Paediatric first aider on site at all times. P						
Office staff availability		M	At least one office staff member on site at all times. P	L		