



Ferryhill Station Primary School Outbreak Plan Autumn 2021

1. Purpose

This outbreak plan sets out the actions school will take to respond to either a local outbreak of COVID-19 (including variants of concern) or an outbreak in our setting.

The areas covered in this outbreak plan template are taken from the most current guidance and will be amended on receipt of updated guidance from Public Health England.

2. Context

Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak schools guidance at step 4 (last updated 19th July)

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

The preventative measures which schools need to maintain are outlined and covered in this guidance. The school has a current risk assessment and proportionate control measures including good hand hygiene, good respiratory hygiene, environmental cleaning, good ventilation and the management of cases and contacts in line with current public health advice.

In addition, if there is an outbreak of coronavirus in school then some additional measures which may be advised on a temporary basis in an outbreak situation. These measures are reflected in this plan.

Contingency framework: education and childcare settings (last updated 25th June 2021)

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

The contingency framework describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 (including responding to variants of concern) in education and childcare settings and sets out that local authorities, directors of public health (DsPH) and PHE health protection teams (HPTs) are responsible for managing localised outbreaks and that they play an important role in providing support and advice to education and childcare settings. The measures described in the contingency framework are reflected in this plan.

3. Outbreak definition

A standard outbreak definition is:

5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely*, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

Or

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

Or

If any case of COVID-19 in school has resulted in that person being hospitalised

*in the same cohort, for example class/year group/activity group/friendship group/home to school transport

4. Outbreak assessment

An assessment of an outbreak is undertaken by working with public health who will advise on public health actions and this assessment is made taking into account the current position regarding COVID-19 in the population.

5. Outbreak Management Plan

All education and childcare settings should have outbreak management plans outlining how they would operate if any of the measures described below were recommended for their setting or area.

This includes how they would ensure every child, pupil or student receives the quantity and quality of education and care to which they are normally entitled.

Public Health Actions to be included:

1) Prevention measures:

School has reviewed the Covid Risk Assessment in line with the most recent guidance and this has been shared with staff and parents. Preventative measures include:

- Regular hand washing
- Good respiratory hygiene routines
- Good ventilation
- Regular cleaning of touch points
- Systems reviewed so that there is no congestion in doorways and corridors
- Short assemblies twice weekly (no more than 15 minutes, maximum)

2) Bubbles

In the event of an outbreak and following advice from Public Health England, the school will move to class bubbles, as were in place from June 2020 to July 2021. This will include staggered start and end times, staggered breaks and classes eating lunch in classrooms. There will be no assemblies or other times of the school day when children meet those who are not in their bubble.

3) Face coverings

Face coverings may need to be reintroduction for staff in corridors and communal areas and as previously there will be reasonable exemptions for their use.

Visitors will continue to be requested to wear face max in the school building.

4) Testing:

Staff are asked to complete two lateral flow tests per week and report the result to the school office as well as the NHS.

Increased testing may be advised this may include increased use of home testing by staff. In some instances, Public Health England may advise staff to use a PCR test through the NHS.

There may be a requirement for asymptomatic testing to take place at school. This may include setting up a new asymptomatic test site. This would be agreed with the school and support would be available from DCC.

5) Shielding

Should shielding be reintroduced by national government then those on the shielded patient list should follow national guidance. Shielded pupils will be required to learn remotely from home. Shielded staff will be required to work from home.

6) Other activities

A range of activities may be paused or restricted during an outbreak including: educational visits, residential educational visits, open days, transition days, parental attendance, performances and use of the school premises by other organisations.

7) Contact tracing

Contact tracing may be reinstated and in this situation DCC will work with schools to ascertain the contacts of cases during their infectious period and will provide a letter (to follow) for schools to share with identified contacts advising the contact to seek a PCR test and where not exempt, to self-isolate.

In this case, whole classes or 'bubbles' would be considered close contacts and would be asked to isolate at home, where remote learning would take the place of fact to face learning.

8) Attendance restrictions

As a measure of last resort, PHE or the government may advise schools to restrict attendance.

High-quality remote education will be provided for all pupils or students not attending. This involves live teaching sessions on Microsoft Teams, followed by work being shared using Teams Class Notebooks and Assignments. Teachers will run at least three live sessions per day and they provide 1:1 or small group support if this is needed. Teachers will monitor work and provide developmental feedback, using formative assessment to plan next steps. Teachers will monitor attendance and rigorously follow up non-attendance or non-completion of learning activities. Resources such as The Oak Academy will be used to support learning, Accelerated Reader, Freckle and Purple Mash.

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

Early years settings

If attendance restrictions are needed, vulnerable children and children of critical workers will be allowed to attend and they will carry out developmental activities as planned by their teachers.

Primary Aged Children

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

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

Learning between those attending school and those learning remotely will be aligned so that children will be at similar learning levels when they return to school. This will support the learning transition between home and school based education.

9) Other Information:

Safeguarding

Vulnerable children will be strongly encouraged to attend school in the event of restricted attendance. Where they do not attend, they will be contacted daily. If the school has to return to 'bubble' closures, vulnerable children included in the isolating bubble will be contacted daily. If contact is difficult, school will follow up with home visits and contact with social workers.

Meals

In the event of restricted attendance or bubble closure, children entitled to free school meals will be offered a school packed lunch.

IT Access

Where children are expected to engage in remote learning, equipment such as 4G hubs and learning devices are available to loan from school.

Communications

Good communication can be maintained through email, telephone and text messaging.