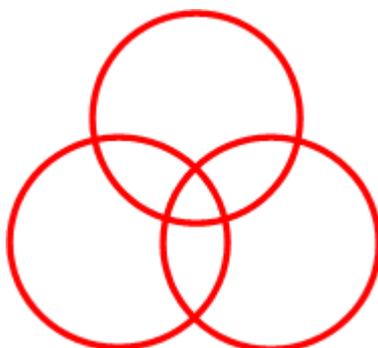


# COVID-19: Outbreak Management Plan

## St Edmund's Catholic Primary School



<b>Approved by:</b>	Maria Delany-White	<b>Date:</b> Autumn 2021
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	
<b>Next review due by:</b>	February 2021	

### Prioritising education

Our overarching objective is to maximise the number of children and young people in face-to-face education and minimise any disruption, in a way that best manages the COVID-19 risk. The impacts of having missed face-to-face education during the pandemic are severe for children. In all cases, any benefits in managing transmission should be weighed against any educational drawbacks. Decision-makers should endeavour to keep any measures in education to the minimum number of settings or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible. Decision-makers should keep all measures under regular review and lift them as soon as the evidence supports doing so.

Measures affecting education settings across an area should not be considered in isolation but as part of a broader package of measures. Attendance restrictions should only ever be considered as a last resort - neither contacts or siblings of positive cases should be asked to isolate unless they are identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 or advised to do so by Track and Trace.

The government will try to give as much notice as possible of any changes to the way settings should operate.

### 1. Introduction

This plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19 and the [schools operational guidance](#), (also [Stepping measures up and down](#) section for more information) provided by the Department for Education (DfE).

We will only implement some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by our local authority (LA), directors of public health (DsPH), UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) health protection team or the national government.

It may be necessary to implement these measures in the following circumstances, for example:

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school. Actions will be considered when any of the following thresholds are met:
  - There are 5 positive cases among pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely within a 10-day period
  - 10% of pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive within a 10-day period
  - There have been any admissions to hospital or deaths in our student or staff population due to COVID-19.
- If COVID-19 infection rates in the community are extremely high, and other measures have failed to reduce transmission
- As part of a package of measures responding to a 'variant of concern' (VoC)
- To prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

All settings should seek public health advice if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital with COVID-19 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.

## 2. Seeking public health advice

When one of the thresholds above is met, we will review the testing, hygiene, and ventilation measures already in place.

We will also seek public health advice from a director of public health or health protection team. The Headteacher (School Business Manager or another member of the Senior Leadership Team in the Head teacher's absence) will be responsible for seeking this advice, and will do so by:

- telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687 or email: [dfc.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:dfc.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)) DfE helpline opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm (plus Saturday-Sunday 10am-6pm). The DfE helpline has an escalation process with the PHE Health Protection Teams and will notify them of any complex cases and issues which might require their input.
- contacting our Local Authority on [educationcovid19@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:educationcovid19@oxfordshire.gov.uk) The team contains both School Improvement and Public Health colleagues.
- Sometimes we might also require a multiagency response to support the school in which case we will contact: [ICC.TVPHEC@phe.gov.uk](mailto:ICC.TVPHEC@phe.gov.uk) Contacting the local HPT can help with reviewing our existing Covid risk assessments and give further advice.

### 3. Testing

If recommended, we will increase the use of lateral flow home testing by staff.

### 4. Other measures

Parents, carers, pupils, and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of control measures. This will be done via a Headteacher Newsletter and/or Parent Mail to parents and via email to staff once a decision has been made. The Chair of Governors will be kept fully informed by the Headteacher (School Business Manager or another member of the Senior Leadership Team in the Head teacher's absence) via phone or email.

If recommended, we will limit:

- Residential educational visits
- Transition or taster days
- Live performances
- Volunteers and helpers coming into school
- Parents coming into school

If recommended, we will (re)introduce:

- Bubbles, to reduce mixing between groups
- Face coverings in communal areas and classrooms for staff and visitors (unless exempt)

### 5. Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort. If recommended, we will implement the measures in this section.

#### 5.1 Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers

#### 5.2 Education and support for pupils at home

All other pupils will be required to stay at home and will receive remote education.

We will aim to deliver remote education that meets the same quality and quantity of education that pupils would receive in school, as outlined in our [St Edmund's Remote Learning Offer](#)

The school will continue to provide meals or lunch parcels for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines via our catering company, Edwards and Ward.

### **5.3 Safeguarding**

We will review our child protection policy to make sure it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective.

We will aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site wherever possible.

If our DSL (or deputy) can't be on site, they can be contacted remotely via the school office.

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, another senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

When vulnerable pupils are absent, we will:

- Speak to parents/carers and, where applicable, social workers and the local authority, to work out the reason for absence
- Encourage attendance
- Make sure vulnerable pupils can access appropriate education and support while at home
- Maintain contact, and check regularly that the pupil is able to access remote education provision