

# **Rochford Primary & Nursery School (Academy)**



## **COVID-19: Outbreak Management Plan**



## **1. Introduction**

This plan is based on the contingency framework for managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 and the school's operational guidance, 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), Public Health England (PHE) 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 either of the following thresholds are met:
  - There are 5 positive cases amongst 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
- 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

## **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. Shane Owen will be responsible for seeking this advice and will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687).

### **3. Shielding**

We will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding, which would apply to those on the shielded patient list (SPL).

We will speak to individuals required to shield about additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning.

### **4. Other measures**

Parents, carers, pupils and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of control measures. This will be done via email/letters sent home with pupils once a decision has been made.

If recommended, we will limit:

- Residential educational visits
- Open days
- Transition or taster days
- Parents coming into school
- Live performances

If recommended, we will (re)introduce:

- Frequent testing of staff.
- 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 remote learning policy.

Remote learning will continue to be provided for pupils who have tested positive for Covid-19 but are well enough to learn from home.

The school will continue to provide meals or supermarket vouchers for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines. Vouchers will be emailed to parent email addresses held on file. Food parcels will be organised accordingly.

### **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 a deputy DSL on site wherever possible.

If our DSL (or a deputy) can't be on site, they can be contacted via the school office, where a message will be passed on to them immediately (Tel: 01702 544342 or E-mail [admin@rochfrd.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@rochfrd.essex.sch.uk))

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for coordinating 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.

## **6. Tracing close contacts and isolation**

- Close contacts in schools are now identified by <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works> NHS Test and Trace and education settings are not expected to undertake contact tracing.
- As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their

parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. Schools may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

- All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the **Omicron variant** of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will be contacted directly and required to self-isolate immediately and asked to book a PCR test. They will be informed by the local health protection team or NHS Test and Trace if they fall into this category and provided details about self-isolation.
- For everyone else, isolation rules are unchanged. Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, and any of the following apply:
  - they are fully vaccinated
  - they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
  - they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
  - they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.
- Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school and have been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, should continue to attend school as normal.
- Settings will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in a setting or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, a director of public health might advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measure.