

COVID-19: Early Years outbreak management plan

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



ST MARY'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL

Approved by:	I. Borriello	Date: September 2021
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Last reviewed on:	Sept 2021
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Next review due by:	Dec 2021
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1. Introduction

This plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19, provided by the Department for Education (DfE) and adapted from the template provided by The Key Support Services Ltd and will be used alongside the latest Government Guidance.

The purpose of this plan is due to the government making it a national priority that education and childcare settings continue to operate as normal during the COVID-19 pandemic. The DfE's COVID Contingency Framework states that settings should have an outbreak management plan, which describes how they would operate if there was an outbreak in their setting.

The measures in this plan will be implemented in response to recommendations provided by the local authority (LA), director of public health (DPH), 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 setting.

An outbreak is defined as two or more confirmed (or suspected) cases linked by time or place

In settings this refers to two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 among children or staff who are direct close contacts, proximity contacts or in the same cohort or 'bubble' (where applicable) in the early years / school / college setting within 14 days. (Dudley Public Health)

- 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)
- if an outbreak occurs, we will work with Dudley health protection team to help identify individuals who may have been in contact with known infectious individuals

2. 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 settings or arrangements for home working or learning.

3. Other measures

If recommended, we will:

Increase:

- cleaning and infection control measures

Limit:

- Educational visits
- Open days
- Transition or taster days
- Parents coming into setting
- Live performances

Reintroduce:

- Face coverings for staff who are not exempt when arriving at setting and moving around indoors in places where social distancing is difficult to maintain, such as in communal areas
- Bubbles and social distancing
- asymptomatic testing sites (ATS) in our area, also including increase use of home testing.

The reintroduction of on-site testing may be advised by local directors of public health for individual settings or small clusters, or in settings across areas where an “enhanced response package” has been deemed appropriate.

4. Attendance restrictions

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

4.1 Eligibility to remain in setting

In the first instance, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable children
- Children of critical workers

4.2 Education and support for pupils at home

All other children will be required to stay at home and will receive support for home learning

We will aim to deliver remote home learning that meets the same quality and quantity of early learning that children would receive in the setting, as outlined in our Remote Education Policy.

4.3 Wraparound care

We will limit access to before and after-school activities and wraparound care during term time and the summer holidays to those that need it most.

We will communicate who will be eligible to attend once the restrictions are confirmed.

4.4 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 by using the “contact us” form in the COVID-19 section on the school website.

If our DSL (or deputy) is unavailable, we will sign post you to the LA Early Years Safeguarding Lead – Donna Farnell. They can be contacted by calling 01384 814373 or emailing donna.farnell@dudley.gov.uk.