

Safety, Health and Environment (SHE)

GCC COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR SCHOOLS & EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS



School employers are required to assess the risks associated with COVID-19 and implement preventative measures outlined in Government guidance. This risk assessment will supplement any existing risk assessments in educational settings.

This is not a generic risk assessment that just applies to every setting. It is important that Headteachers/managers go through and adapt the risk assessment for their own school or early years setting.

It is strongly recommended that you involve employees in the risk assessment process. Once complete share the findings and provide any instruction needed to implement measures. Local monitoring must also follow to ensure measures are implemented and controlling the risks.

Coaley C of E Primary Academy

COVID-19 Risk Assessment

Reviewed and updated: 1.6.20, 5.6.20, 15.6.20, 29.06.20

ASSESS

Decide appropriate control measures for managers and employees to implement under a 'Plan', 'Do', 'Review' cycle.

*The preventative measures in this risk assessment are not mandatory but are provided as guidance on reducing the risk of transmission. Each school/setting must consider their own situation and adapt the assessment by editing the measures where appropriate. Remove any measures that are not relevant or will not be applied in your setting and add any additional local measures that you are implementing.

Who may be at risk: Employees, pupils and young people, families (parents, carers and siblings), visitors, contractors, members of public.

Vulnerable groups – this risk assessment considers vulnerable groups which the NHS lists as 'people at high risk (clinically extremely vulnerable)'; and 'people at moderate risk (clinically vulnerable)'. An individual risk assessment may be appropriate for vulnerable employees plus BAME and those who are very anxious about returning to their workplace.

PLAN		DO			REVIEW
Prepare Building	Prepare Employees and Parents and pupils	Control Access	Implementing Social Distancing	Implement Infection Control Measures	Communicate and Review Arrangements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all health and safety compliance checks have been undertaken before opening (e.g. fire alarm, emergency lighting, water hygiene, etc.). COVID-19 posters/signage displayed in all toilets and classrooms and at the front door Modify all classes to use external doors: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve employees in plans to return to school and listen to any suggestions on preventative measures that can be taken. Consider personal risk factors: age, obesity, pregnancy, existing health conditions and ethnicity. Where necessary individual risk assessments for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entry points to school controlled (including deliveries). Building access rules clearly communicated through signage on entrances. Parents' drop-off and pick-up protocols to minimise contact. School start times staggered so class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe distancing or 1+ metres is a preventative measure that will be adopted so far as is reasonably practicable but it is acknowledged that this is not always possible in schools. However, all the measures in this assessment are aimed at reducing transmission risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient handwashing facilities are available. Frequent hand washing encouraged for adults and pupils (following guidance on hand cleaning). Hands cleaned on arrival at school, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with employees on risk assessments. Risk assessment published on school website. Nominated employees tasked to monitoring protection measures. Employees encourage to report any non compliance.

<p>to adhere to social distancing rules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate each class to a particular area of the school to minimise cross-contamination. • Put down floor markings along the corridor to prevent children from going into another classes area. • Identify doors that can be propped open taking account of fire safety and safeguarding. All classes to be accessed form the outside • Organise classrooms for maintaining space between seats and desks. • Inspect classrooms and remove unnecessary items. • Remove soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean. • Classes to have allocated toilets and timings for each year group and bubble when using them. • Put up laminated picture signs in 	<p>employees and pupils at special risk (take account of medical advice).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review EHCPs where required. • Regular communications that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, are not to attend school. • Information shared about testing available for those with symptoms. • Remote education is continuing as much as possible to limit numbers attending school. However, all children will be given a generic timetable and signposted to Oak Academy and BBC Bitesize, • This will be used for the key worker/vulnerable children group • Assess how many employees are needed in school. No one to remain working from home. 	<p>groups arrive at different times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floor markings outside school to indicate distancing rules (if queuing during peak times). • Hand sanitiser provided at all entrances. • Visitors do not sign in with the same pen. • Staff on duty outside school to monitor protection measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced class sizes to 15 max • Class groups kept together throughout the day and do not mix with other groups. • Groups do not mix to play sports or games together. • The number of pupils in shared spaces for lunch and exercise is limited to specific groups. • Assemblies/Worship not held • Separate spaces for each group clearly indicated in shared spaces (e.g. barriers or floor markings). • Limiting the number of pupils who use the toilet facilities at one time on a timetable basis • Groups use the same classroom or area of a setting throughout the day. • Seating plans to ensure children sit at the same desk. • Desks should be spaced as far apart as possible. • The same teacher and other staff are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young pupils encouraged to learn and practise good hygiene habits through games, songs and repetition. • Staff help is available for pupils who have trouble cleaning their hands independently. • Adults and pupils are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose. • Adults and pupils encouraged to use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it') • Bins for tissues provided and are emptied throughout the day. • Spaces well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows) or ventilation units. • Doors propped open, where safe to do so to limit use of door handles. Ensure closed when premises unoccupied. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effectiveness of prevention measures will be monitored by school leaders. • This risk assessment will be reviewed if the risk level changes and/or in light of updated guidance.
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<p>toilets and classrooms in front of sinks showing handwashing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make arrangements with cleaners for additional cleaning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returning to school will be for all children from YR to Y5. Year 6 children will be asked to return on 17th July only from 6th July. • Reviewing timetables to decide which lessons or activities will be delivered on what days. Focus on transition lessons and nurture. • Smaller class groups identified (split in half, with no more than 15 pupils per small group to one teacher and a teaching assistant). • Identify and plan lessons that could take place outdoors. • Use the timetable to reduce movement around the school or building. • Planning break times (including lunch), so that all pupils are not moving around the school at the same time. • Communicate to parents on the preventative measures being taken (e.g. post risk 		<p>assigned to each group and, as far as possible, these stay the same.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of staff come to the classroom rather than groups of pupils circulate to different parts of the building/site. • Rooms accessed directly from outside where possible. • The occupancy of staff rooms and offices limited. • Encouraging use of phones to communicate between different parts of school. • Members of staff are on duty at breaks to ensure compliance with rules. • Lunchtimes to always have an extra adults outside so that children can be supervised when going to the toilet outside of their timeslot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitising spray and paper towels to be provided in classrooms for use by members of staff. • Thorough cleaning of rooms at the end of the day and each week by staff. • Shared materials and surfaces cleaned and disinfected frequently (e.g. toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, etc.). • Toys and play equipment appropriately cleaned between groups of pupils using it, and not shared with multiple groups. • Equipment used in practical lessons cleaned thoroughly between groups. • Outdoor equipment to be provided for small groups to use and cleaned each week • Multiple groups do not use outdoor equipment simultaneously. 	
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	<p>assessment on school website).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents informed only one parent to accompany child to school. • Parents and pupils encouraged to walk or cycle where possible. • Staggered drop-off and collection times planned and communicated to parents. • Made clear to parents that they cannot gather at entrance gates or doors. • Encourage parents to phone school and make telephone appointments if they wish to discuss their child (to avoid face to face meetings). • Discourage parents and pupils from bringing in toys and other play items from home. • Daily briefing to pupils on school rules and measures with reminders before leaving rooms. • Review behaviour policies to consider how pupils not 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No shared resources being taken home. • Avoid sharing books and other materials. • No books or work handed in on paper. • Procedures should someone become unwell whilst attending school. • Staff providing close hands-on contact with pupils need to increase their level of self-protection, such as minimising close contact and having more frequent hand-washing and other hygiene measures, and regular cleaning of surfaces. • All children are provided with extra guidance and distancing measures when they require to be also in school as a key worker. Letters with guidance sent to parents and separate spaces created (for example on a Friday, for those moving from their class bubble to their key worker bubble) 	
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	<p>following distancing rules will be managed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employees fully briefed about the plans and protective measures identified in the risk assessment. • Regular (weekly) full staff briefings. • One member of staff is currently shielding at home due to an extremely vulnerable family member. Regular/weekly contact via email and phone calls • Communication with contractors and suppliers that will need to prepare to support plans for opening (e.g. cleaning, catering, food supplies, hygiene suppliers). • Communication with others (e.g. Playgroup, lettings, regular visitors, etc.) • Limit visitors by exception (e.g. for priority contractors, emergencies etc.). • Keep parent appointments / external meetings on Zoom 			<p>to avoid cross contamination as much as possible</p> <p>NOTE: Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended by PHE. The majority of employees in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work (determined by existing risk assessment), even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pupils whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way; • if a pupil becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. 	
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				<p>However, PPE packs are being provided by GCC for all schools.</p> <p>Employees providing first aid to pupils will not be expected to maintain 2m distance. The following measures will be adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • washing hands or using hand sanitiser, before and after treating injured person; • wear gloves or cover hands when dealing with open wounds; • if CPR is required on an adult, attempt compression only CPR and early defibrillation until the ambulance arrives; • if CPR is required on a child, use a resuscitation face shield if available to perform mouth-to-mouth ventilation in asphyxial arrest. • dispose of all waste safely. <p>Should employees have close hands-on contact they should monitor themselves for symptoms of possible</p>	
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				COVID-19 over the following 14 days.	
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