

Business Continuity Plan

Committee:	Trust Board	
Approved on:	July 2021	
Next review date:	July 2022	
Updated/Reviewed on	:	Approved by Trust Board on:
January 2022		09.02.2022

1.1 Background Information

Esprit Multi Academy Trust is required by the Department for Education to develop plans to manage business continuity in the event of a range of disruptions to services. Most recently we have responded to the Covid 19 Pandemic and the need to partially close and reopen our schools.

No-notice disruptions are, by definition, impossible to predict. This plan deals with the ones most likely to occur:

- Global pandemic Coronavirus
- loss of premises (through fire, flood etc.)
- loss of utilities (electricity, gas, water, fuel)
- failure of IT and telephony
- staff shortage

The impact of any serious disruption may manifest itself in terms of: delivery of education, safety/welfare, financial consequences; reputation damage; environmental consequences.

1.2 Aim of Plan

The aim of this plan is to use learning from recent events, provide guidance and support to enable our academies to tackle the impact of severe disruptions due to a variety of unlikely, but credible, causes, with the following objectives.

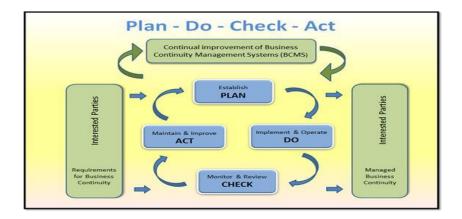
1.3 Objectives of Plan

The plan is designed to achieve the following strategic objectives:

- a. To safeguard the safety and welfare of pupils, staff and visitors;
- b. To resume provision of education services at the earliest opportunity and, where possible, secure a continuation of learning;
- c. To maintain the community and identity of the Trust;
- d. To return the Trust to normality.

1.4 The Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) Model

The International standard applies the "Plan-Do-Check-Act" (PDCA) model to planning, establishing, implementing, operating, monitoring, reviewing, maintaining and continually improving the effectiveness of the organisation.



Plan (Establish)	Establish Business Continuity policy, objectives, targets, controls, processes and procedures relevant to improving Business Continuity in order to deliver results and align with the organisations overall policy and procedures.
Do (Implement and operate)	Implement and operate the Business Continuity policy, controls, processes and procedures.
Check (Monitor and review)	Monitor and review performance against Business Continuity policy and objective, report the results to management for review, and determine and authorise actions for remediation and improvement.
Act (Maintain and Improve)	Maintain and improve the BCMS by taking corrective action, based on the results of management review and reappraising the scope of the BCMS and Business Continuity policy and objectives.

1.5 Related Plans and Procedures

This plan should be read in conjunction with the academy's other evacuation plans and emergency procedures that deal with the immediate response to an emergency situation, including;

- Fire Evacuation Procedure
- Invacuation procedure
- Home working policy
- Recovery planning
- Individual School Risk assessments

1.6 Plan Review and Testing

This plan should be reviewed for currency and accuracy every 2 years or in the event of significant structural or organisational change.

1.7 Business Continuity/Emergency Grab Bag

Our emergency grab bag is virtual on 'Drop box' as this is where all shared information is stored.

Section	Details
Business	Copy of this plan
Continuity	Key contact sheet: Engie Evolve / LEAMIS Executive Principal / Chief Finance Officer / Estates and Procurement Manager / Principals / Local Authority Chair of Trustees and Chair of Governors Login Codes for Trust systems (Text messaging, Cloud)
Organisational	Staff Handbook
Information	MAT Business finance handbook
	Parent handbook
	Letterhead/Compliment Slip
Financial	Bank details
Information	Insurance cover document & policy
	Asset Register

Staff Information	Staff Contact details / Emergency contact details
ICT Equipment	Software licence agreements and key codes
	Telephone contract details for diverting calls

SECTION 2: PLAN ACTIVATION

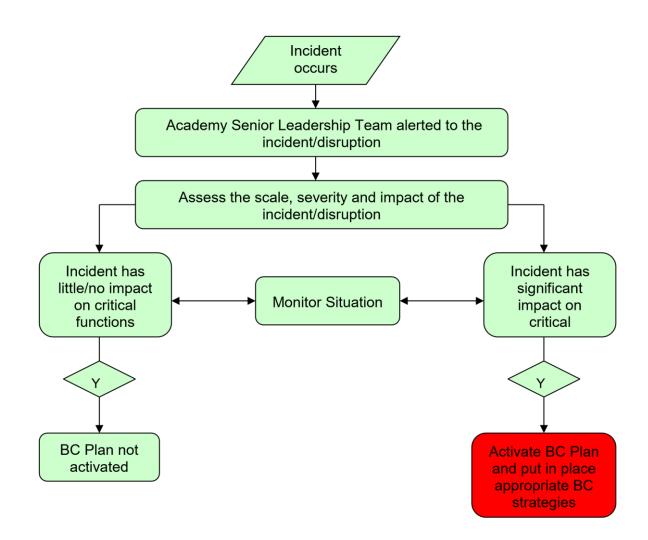
2.1 Circumstances

This plan will be activated in response to an incident causing significant disruption to the academy, particularly the delivery of key/critical activities.

2.2 Responsibility for Plan Activation

The responsibility for implementing this plan lies with the Academy Principal or, if not available, a member of the Academy Senior Leadership Team.

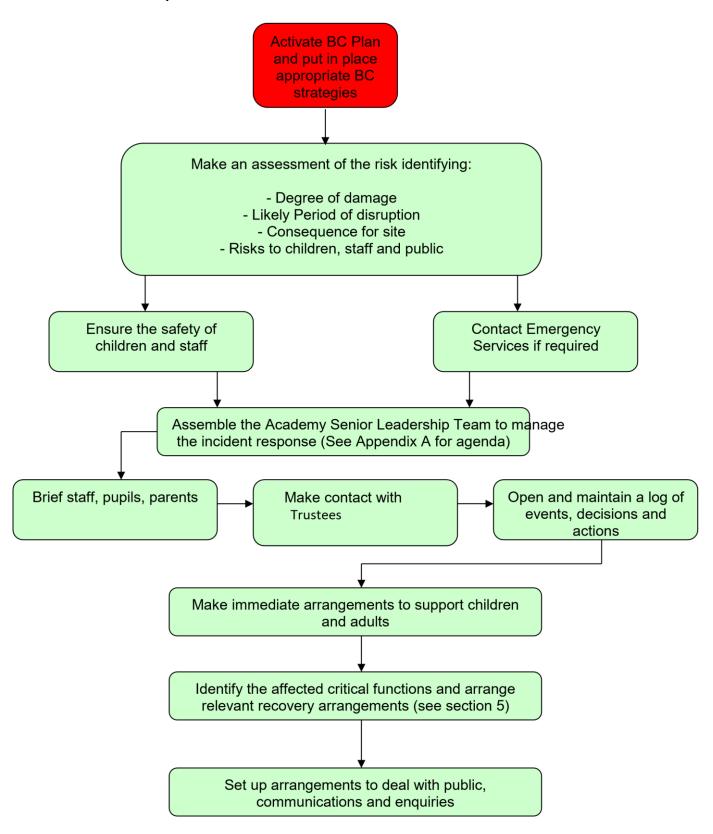
2.3 Activation Process



SECTION 3:

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Incident Response



3.2 Roles and Responsibilities

The Executive Principal, in conjunction with the Academy's Senior Leadership Team will delegate Business Continuity Roles and Responsibilities. A guide on the roles and responsibilities we use during a Business Continuity incident is described below.

Role	Responsibilities	Accountability / Authority
Executive Principal	 Responsible owner of Business Continuity Management in the Trust Ensuring the Trust has capacity within its structure to respond to incidents Determining the Trust's overall response and recovery strategy 	The Executive Principal has overall responsibility for day- to-management of the Trust, including lead decision- maker in times of crisis.
Chief Finance Officer	 Business Continuity Plan development Training staff within the Academies on Business Continuity Embedding a culture of resilience within the Trust, involving stakeholders as required Developing continuity arrangements and strategies e.g. alternative relocation site, use of temporary staff etc. Involving the Trust community in the planning process as appropriate Plan testing and exercise Conducting 'debriefs' following an incident, test or exercise to identify lessons and ways in which the plan can be improved Organising and reporting on sites 	Chief Finance Officer reports directly into the Executive Principal and will usually be a member of the Trust Incident Senior Leadership Team.
Trust Senior Leadership Team consists of; Executive Principal Chief Finance Officer Estates and Procurement Manager Principals Academy Business Managers Deputy Principals	 Leading the Trust's initial and ongoing response to an incident in a consistent way Declaring that an 'incident' is taking place Activating the Business Continuity Plan Notifying relevant stakeholders of the incident, plan activation and on-going response actions Providing direction and leadership for the whole Trust community Undertaking response and communication actions as agreed in the plan Prioritising the recovery of key activities disrupted by the incident Managing resource deployment Welfare of Pupils Staff welfare and employment issues 	The Trust Senior Leadership Team has the delegated authority to authorise all decisions and actions required to respond and recover from the incident.

Trust Board Continuity Committee Executive Principal Chair of Trustees 2 Trustees Principals	Responsible for monitoring, challenging and supporting risk assessments	
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Role	Responsibilities	Report to/Actions
Incident Log (Template in appendix) maintained by the Compliance officer	 To prepare meeting agendas To signpost to key local / national guidance documents To record all key decisions and actions taken in relation to the incident To collate information needed for press statements 	The Executive Principal
Create Sub Groups for relevant areas Executive Group • Executive Principal • Academy Principals • Business Manager • Estates and Procurement Manager Senior Leaders Group Nominated • Principal from Executive Group	 Executive Group Communication to Parents (Letters/Website) Communication & Involvement of the Trust Board – move to separate group Safeguarding concerns and Risks Complete and update Risk Assessment as the risk changes (Estates and Procurement Manager keeps a generic Risk Assessment that can be adapted) Staff/Parent/Other Handbooks 	 Report to Trust Board/ committee on risk assessments and contingency planning Ensure consistency in messages and communication Maintain strategic vision
 Deputy Principals Academy Business Manager (as required) Safeguarding lead Staff Group Nominated Deputy Principal from Senior Leaders Group / or if Academy Specific Deputy Principal of Academy Teachers Year Group Leaders Safeguarding officers 	 Senior Leaders Group Home Learning – if pupils can't attend Communication – Internal / External Registers Curriculum Teachers Teachers Group Class DOJO Practical requirements (What needs to be done and why) Operational – getting the teaching out to the children who need it 	 Focus on individual schools Ensure pupil learning takes place Monitor impact Pupil welfare Staff welfare Delivery of curriculum Delivery of home learning Continuity Making contact with pupils

Senior Leadership Team EP APs DPs Academy Business Manager Chief Finance Officer Estates and Procurement Manager	 To ensure that the risk/threat is handled effectively and efficiently Daily Meeting Formula 	Will lead on recovery and resumption strategies. Reports directly to Executive Principal. To allow for Strategic group members to know what is expected / any actions to be addressed / communicated
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BASC Manager	 Leading and reporting on the Trust's recovery process Identifying lessons as a result of the incident Liaison with Chief Finance Officer to ensure lessons are incorporated into the plan development 	
Communication EP AP Academy Business Manager Estates and Procurement Manager	 Co-ordinating communication with key stakeholders including: Trustees Governors Members Parents/Carers Staff On site supply providers (cleaners/catering etc) Local Authority School Crossing Patrol Emergency Services Health and Safety Support Engie 	All communications activities should be agreed by the Trust Incident Management Team. Information sharing should be approved by the Executive Principal (or Trust Incident Management Team if the Executive Principal is unavailable).
Estates and Procurement Manager	 To ensure site security and safety in an incident To link with the Trust Incident team on any building/site issues To liaise and work with any appointed contractors 	Reporting directly to the Executive Principal or Trust Incident Management Team.
ICT Support (External)	 To ensure the resilience of the Trust's ICT infrastructure To link with LEAMIS IT helpdesk and any other ICT provider Work with the Chief Finance Officer to develop proportionate risk responses 	ICT Coordinator reports directly to the Chief Finance Officer for plan development issues. In response to an incident, reporting to the Trust Incident Management Team.

Recovery Coordinator	 Leading and reporting on the Trust's recovery process Identifying lessons as a result of the incident Liaison with Chief Finance Officer to ensure lessons are incorporated into the 	Is likely to already be a member of the Trust Incident Management Team, and will lead on recovery and resumption strategies. Reports directly to Executive Principal.
	 plan development 	

BUSINESS IMPACT ASSESSMENT

For the purpose of this plan, the strategic critical function of the Trust is stated as:

'The provision of educational services to its registered pupils, including a safe and secure environment in which to learn.'

In a business continuity context, the following functions are intended to achieve the strategic aim. Some activities will be more critical than others, and each academy will risk assess their critical activities and a realistic recovery time objective of when the service or function can be restored. We will review risk assessments regularly and report to Trustees. The risk assessment will be linked to the type of critical incident we are facing and the template we use will amend its headings accordingly. Some common prompts to help define our planning is outlined below.

Critical Function	Description
Teaching Staff	The provision of a suitable number of qualified teaching staff to deliver the National Curriculum.
Support Staff	The provision of suitably qualified and experienced support staff to assist in the education of pupils and running of establishment services.
Safe and Secure Premises	The provision of suitable, safe and secure accommodation to enable the delivery of education and to meet duty of care and health & Safety requirements etc.
Disease transmission	Provision of handwashing/ other facilities to maintain high standards of hygiene
Catering Facilities and Staff	The provision of suitable catering facilities and staff to enable preparation of school meals.
Utilities - Gas	The supply of gas to enable the heating of premises and preparation of school meals etc.
Utilities – Water	The supply of water for drinking and general usage including flushing of toilets, preparations of meals etc.
Utilities - electric	The supply of electricity to enable ICT systems to run, lighting of premises etc.
Provision of IT	The provision of IT to deliver education and to enable the establishment to run smoothly.
Provision of home learning	The provision of remote learning and/or paper packs to ensure pupils continue to learn
Safeguarding	Maintaining eyes and ears on vulnerable children to quickly identify if intervention is needed
Keeping of suitable records	The keeping of suitable records in relation to staff/pupils and general administrative functions within an establishment.
Provision of cleaning contractors	The provision of suitable numbers of cleaners to carry out general cleaners to carry out general cleaning such as toilets, waste collection and removal.

In the context of 'Business Continuity Management' a risk assessment looks at the likelihood and impact of a variety of risks that could cause a business interruption.

The Risk Assessment matrix in this plan differs slightly from that used in the assessment of corporate risk. This matrix is incorporated into the ISO22301 which is an International Standard that ESPRIT Multi Academy Trust has aligned its BC plans to. The ISO22301 is designed specifically to aid Business Continuity Management and is used by numerous private organisations and most Local Authorities nationwide.

This assessment is a structured and auditable process for identifying significant events, assessing their likelihood and impacts, and then combining these to provide an overall assessment of risk, as a basis for further decisions and actions.

Likelihood of occurrence	Indicator
1. Negligible	Slight or very small chance
2. Rare	Infrequent or exceptional
3. Unlikely	Not likely to occur or have occurred
4. Possible	Capable of happening or occurring
5. Probable	Having more evidence 'for' than 'against'. Likely to occur

GUIDANCE:

Each of the hazards should be scored in terms of its 'likelihood' and 'impact', which, combined, produce the 'risk' rating:

Î	Very likely	Acceptable risk Medium 2	Unacceptable risk High 3	Unacceptable risk Extreme 5	
LIKEIII000	Likely	Acceptable risk Low 1	Acceptable risk Medium 2	Unacceptable risk High 3	
	Unlikely	Acceptable risk Low 1	Acceptable risk Low 1	Acceptable risk Medium 2	
	What is the chance it will happen?	Minor	Moderate	Major	

Likelihood x Impact = Risk

Impact How serious is the risk?

SECTION 5: POTENTIAL DISRUPTIONS

5.1 Loss of Premises

Loss of premises may result from fire, flood, loss of essential utilities or the building is within an area cordoned off by emergency services. This may occur during school hours, necessitating an evacuation, or during non-school hours preventing staff and pupil's access to the building.

It is a critical function of the school to provide suitable, safe and secure accommodation to enable the delivery of education and to meet duty of care and health & Safety requirements etc. The space below should include all relevant information that would assist with recovery from a loss of premises incident.

Virtual learning: In cases of an enforced closure many school provide links through their website to learning opportunities. These together with other educational internet and paper based services provide methods for providing continuation of education provision).

It is good practice for Schools/educational establishments to maintain contact with the local authority or governing body to help identify suitable working processes and possible alternative locations. From experiences of past Business Continuity events, alternative locations have been sought/implemented when a facility has been closed for a period of more than one week.

Risk	Potential Workarounds		
Complete loss of site	Potential alternative sites:	1: Hamilton Academy / Grove Academy / Northwood Broom Academy	
Risk Rating:	rotential alternative sites.	2: Home learning	
		3: TBA	
Partial loss of site Risk Rating:	Use of one of other academy's sites within the Multi Academy Trust Engie as part of their remit are to provide alternative accommodation to the academy 		
	Useful information/contacts: Engie Helpdesk: 01782 233030, Stoke LA 01782 234567		
Temporary loss of premises (utility failure)	•		

Risk	Rating
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5.2 Loss of Staff

The most likely scenarios involving a significant loss of staff are industrial action, fuel shortage, outbreak of disease (eg. Pandemic influenza) and severe weather. In all of these events, there is likely to be a period of notice in which arrangements nay be made to mitigate the effects.

It is a critical function of the academy to provide a suitable number of qualified teaching staff to deliver the National Curriculum and suitably qualified and experienced support staff to assist in the education of pupils and running of establishment services.

It is also important to consider 'Single Points of Failure' i.e. Premises Manager etc

Risk	Potential Workarounds			
Pandemic Flu	A flu pandemic will occur in 2 waves, 3-9 months apart, with each wave lasting about 12 weeks. In addition to staff being off ill, you will also have staff being off to care for sick relatives etc.			
Risk Rating:	 Home learning Alternative teaching arrangements / supply cover Temporary cover Hygiene precautions 			
Fuel Crisis	 Alternative teaching arrangements / supply cover Virtual learning 			
Risk Rating:	 Local supply cover Alternative transport arrangements Useful information/contacts: 			
Industrial Action Risk Rating:	As far as possible, without attempting to influence staff members' legal right to take industrial action, managers should try to estimate the proportion of staff who may be available to work in order to plan work in accordance with priorities			
	 Virtual learning Alternative teaching arrangements 			
Severe Weather	In the event of severe weather (e.g. snow/flooding), staff may be unable to travel to work. Employees are expected to make all efforts to reach their usual place of provide they can do so safely without putting themselves or others at risk.			
Risk Rating:	 Adverse weather conditions policy Alternative teaching arrangements/Supply/staff from other academy 			

5.3 Failure of IT/Data/Telephony

Failure of IT within an academy could be caused by a variety of reasons such as fire, flooding, power cut etc. It is important to ensure that the main server is resilient with separate power supply but if this not possible, back up arrangements should be in place.

Risk	Critical IT Systems	Workaround Options
Failure of IT Server/ systems	SIMS – Server Based PS Financials – Cloud Based Dropbox – Cloud Based	Back up paper system for staff/child records Back up server – off site (LEAMIS support) 'Cloud' arrangements – Dropbox and PS Financials are both
Risk Rating:	Schudio Website – Cloud Based	'cloud' based systems
Loss of Data	Critical Data	Workaround Options
Risk Rating:	- If critical data is lost, what back up options do you have if immediate access is required?	Critical Data is stored on SIMS – this is accessible via off site back up – it is also accessible from other sites.
Loss of Telephony Risk Rating	In the event that the main landline was lost, what alternative	communication methods do you have in place?
	Academy Principal.	

5.4 Loss of Utilities (Electricity/Gas/Water)

In the event that the Academy lost any of the utilities, what would the impact of this be and how long would the Academy continue to operate safely? All contractor contact information can be found in Section 6 of this plan.

Risk	Impact	Potential Workarounds
Electricity/Gas Risk Rating:	- eg. Heating system	- Additional portable heaters – ENGIE provide this
	- Catering	Contract with City Catering – they provide back up from Cromer Road kitchens
	- IT servers	Evolve & Leamis support this
Water Risk Rating:	Impact	Potential Workarounds
	- e.g. Drinking supply	Engie provide clean drinking water, water could be purchased / sourced from other schools
	- Sewerage	Engie responsible for this
	- Catering	City Catering responsible for this

SECTION 6: CONTACT INFORMATION

6.1 Staff Contact Information (Trust Incident Management Team)

Job Title	Name	Telephone	Email
Executive Principal	Mark Unwin		munwin@espritmat.org
Chief Finance Officer	Marianne Williams	07495378477	mwilliams@espritmat.org
Estates and Procurement Manager	Nick Moss	07948234922	nmoss@espritmat.org
Chair of Trustees	Paul Atkins		patkins@espritmat.org
Grove Principal	Shirley Carrigan	07495378462	shirley.carrigan@espritmat.org
Hamilton Principal	Yvonne Glaister	07375520106	yglaister@espritmat.org
Northwood Principal	Yvonne Glaister	07375520106	yglaister@espritmat.org

6.2 External Contact Information (Suppliers/Contractors)

Engie Helpdesk	01782 233030
Evolve	0116 305 5942
LEAMIS	0344 815 5581
PS Financials Support	020 3289 8104
Tim Fender (Local Authority Premises Officer)	07900135664

APPENDIX A: INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM AGENDA

CORONAVIRUS QUERIES FOR MAT DISCUSSION / COMPLETED Daily Actions NEW SEE ARCHIVE FOR PREVIOUS NOTES

WEEK Focus of each meeting will be on weekly actions and/or new activity needing addressing

1. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT 2. INFORMATION SHARING AND QUERIES ARISING FROM CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS 3. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS 4. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Date -

1. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT				
LATEST GUIDANCE				
LINKS FROM LA				
HEADTEACHERS briefing Thursday's at 11:30				
EMAILS FROM LA				
WHO NEEDS TO DO WHAT?				
2. INFORMATION SHA AND QUERIES ARISIN CURRENT ARRANGEN	G FROM	INFORMATION SHARING PUPIL NUMBERS - each day and total numbers attending	QUERIES	NEXT STEPS

GROVE		
HAMILTON		
NORTHWOOD		

3. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS		DISCUSSION		NEXT STEPS		
PPE equipment		Ο				
Risk Assessment Union queries						
WEEK 1 QUESTIONS AND QUERIES UPDATES REQUIRED		UPDATES REQUIRED		-		
Added by Detail			Points to note		Outcomes / Actions	

Appendix B Risk Assessment

ESPRIT MULTI ACADEMY TRUST SEPTEMBER ACTION PLAN FOR FULL OPENING OF SCHOOLS – ELT V1

Contents Introduction

Supporting documents Remote education plan

White agreed

Blue – action and personalisation needed

Pink – MAT decision needed

Introduction

Purpose of this plan

Section 1: Public health advice

Essential measures include:

Risk assessment

The system of controls: protective measures

System of controls

This is the set of actions schools must take. They are grouped into 'prevention' and 'response to any infection' and are outlined in more detail in the Risk Assessment in Annex A.

Prevention:

Response to any infection:

Annex A: Health and safety risk assessment

Annex A – Full opening Risk Assessment

Location / Site	
Activity / Procedure	

Identify peop	lentify people at risk and how they are consulted							
Employees								
Children								
Visitors								
Contractors								
School Context								
Staffing		Class based Teachers	other classroom staff	Pastoral / Other staff	Office Staff	Site Staff	Leadership	ESPRIT
Context	Total							
	Shielding							
	Vulnerable							
	Childcare issues							
	Distressed/Anxious							

School will be open to pupils on Monday to Fridays, with staggered start and end times. This decision has been based on a thorough risk assessment of available staff, meeting out statutory requirements for teachers and safety requirements and will ensure;

Esprit Central Team

SECTION 1 – PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

AREA				
Existing level of risk	нідн	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE
Control measures				
REVIEW				
		1	1	1
Remaining level of risk	нідн	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE

SECTION 2 OPERATION OF SCHOOLS

AREA	SECTION 2	ECTION 2 OPERATION OF SCHOOLS						
Existing level of risk		HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW	NEGLIGIBLE	
Control measures								
Review	Review							
Remaining level of risk	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW		NEGLIGIBLE	

SECTION 3

AREA	Section 3:	Section 3: Curriculum, behaviour and pastoral support						
Existing level of risk	vel of risk HIGH MEDIUM LOW NEGLIGIBLE							
Control measures	Control measures 11. RECOVERY CURRICULUM PLANNING							
Review								
Remaining level of risk	нідн		MEDIUM		LOW		NEGLIG	IBLE

SECTION 4 Section 4: Assessment and accountability **AREA** Existing level of risk LOW HIGH MEDIUM NEGLIGIBLE **Control measures 12. ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING** Review Remaining level of HIGH MEDIUM LOW NEGLIGIBLE risk

AREA Section 5: Contingency planning for outbreaks Existing level of risk HIGH MEDIUM LOW NEGLIGIBLE Control measures 1. CONTINGENCY PLANNING 1. CONTINGENCY PLANNING 1. CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Remaining level of risk	нідн	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE
Review				

Name of Manager	Signature of Manager	Date

Trust Board comments via Trust Board meeting	
Review Committee	
Review Committee	

Chair of Trustees	Signature of Chair	Date
		1

Appendix B-	Testing schedule		
Type of Test (e.g. Live e	exercise, desktop exercise, communications test)	Date of Test	Lessons Learned

Appendix C-	Activation list
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Description of Incident	Date of Incident	Lessons Learned