

Middleton Parish Church School Outbreak Management Plan



Approved by: Jackie Cooke

Date: 6th September 2021

Last reviewed on:

Next review due by:

Context

This plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19 and the [schools operational guidance](#), provided by the Department for Education (DfE). These documents describe the principles for managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 (including responding to variants of concern) in education and childcare settings, covering:

- The types of measures that settings should be prepared for
- Who can recommend these measures and where
- When measures should be lifted
- How decisions are made.

Local authorities, directors of public health (DsPH) and PHE protection teams (HTPs) can recommend measures described here in individual education and childcare settings – or a small cluster of settings, as part of their outbreak management responsibilities. Where there is a need to address more widespread issues across an area, ministers will take decisions on an area-by-area basis.

The government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to operate as normally as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Measures affecting education and childcare may be necessary in some circumstances, for example:

- To manage a COVID-19 outbreak in a setting
- 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)

All education and childcare settings should have outbreak management plans outlining what they would operate if any of the measures described in this document were recommended for their setting or area. This includes how they would ensure every pupil receives the quality and quantity of education and care to which they are normally entitled.

The framework identifies three principles for these outbreak management plans:

1. Prioritising education
2. Collaboration
3. Roles and responsibilities

1. Prioritising Education

The impact of having missed education during the pandemic are significant 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 and childcare to the minimum number of settings and groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible. All measures should be kept under regular review and be lifted as soon as evidence supports doing so.

Measures affecting education should be viewed as part of a wider package of measures.

Where measures include attendance restrictions the DfE may advise on any groups that should be prioritised and should provide schools with as much notice as possible for any changes.

2. Collaboration

Multi-agency collaboration and communication is essential in order to ensure consistency in approach across England so that no group of pupils is unfairly disadvantaged. The Local Authority's directors of public health (DsPH) and the DfE's regional commissioners should work closely together and when a national approach is required work closely with the DfE and Department of Health and Social Care in order to ensure positive outcomes for children.

3. Roles and responsibilities.

Local authorities, directors of public health and public health protection teams are responsible for managing local outbreaks. They play an important role in providing support and advice to education and health care settings.

The contingency framework describes the measures that all education and childcare settings should have in their outbreak management plans, outlining how they would operate if any of the measures described below were recommended for their setting or area. The rest of this **Outbreak Management Plan** for **Middleton Parish Church School** details our operational intentions in relation to each of the measures identified by the contingency framework and needs to be read in conjunction with the most recent risk assessment for school. We recognise that this is a fluid and transitional period and that schools play a vital role in helping their immediate and wider communities come to terms with learning to live with COVID-19. This plan will be updated as and when government advice changes.

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:

1. There are 5 positive cases amongst pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely within a 10-day period
2. 10% of pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive within a 10-day period; this means 10% of a cohort, e.g. 3, **NOT** 10% of the school population
3. Or to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS.

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. Jackie Cooke/Felicity Wainwright will be responsible for seeking this advice, and will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687) or contacting infectioncontroldutydesk@rochdale.gov.uk

Testing

As a primary school, we have not been required to introduce Asymptomatic Testing. We will continue to support staff by providing home testing kits. We will follow all guidelines and advice issued by Public Health.

Face Coverings

The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law, but experts are recommending that face coverings are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces.

Some staff may choose to continue to wear a face covering in some circumstances, and school management will support their choice unless there are clear reasons why this cannot be accepted.

If school has an outbreak or a substantial increase in cases, the Director of Public Health (DPH) may advise that I should temporarily re-introduce the wearing of face coverings in communal areas by staff and visitors (unless exempt).

We will follow all guidelines and advice issued by Public Health.

Shielding

Shielding is currently paused. In the event of a major outbreak or VoC that poses a significant risk to individuals on the shielded patient list (SPL) we will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding. Shielding can only be reintroduced by national government.

Other measures

Local Authorities, directors of public health and PHE protection teams may recommend limiting:

- Residential educational visits
- Open days
- Transition or taster days
- Parents coming into school
- Live performances
- This may apply to one setting, a cluster of settings, or across an entire area.

Middleton Parish Church School will follow any national recommendations in regard to these precautions. We will forewarn all families that all such activity is subject to current guidance and may change. We will update them with as much notice as possible. If recommended, we will reintroduce: -

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

Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort. If recommended the government will publish detailed operational guidance for settings.

Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers

Education and support for pupils at home

All other pupils will be required to stay at home and will receive remote education, this will be available both online and as a paper copy.

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.

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.

Education workforce.

If restrictions on pupil attendance are needed a thorough risk assessment will be undertaken to determine the workforce required onsite and if it is appropriate for some staff to work remotely. The Governing Board will have regard to the guidance on clinically extremely vulnerable people.

We will continue to implement the systems of control set out in the COVID-19 coronavirus operational guidance. We will explain the measures to staff as part of the risk assessment writing process and outline clearly the protective measures put in place in order to reduce risk.

Safeguarding

There should be no changes to local multi-agency arrangements. If attendance restrictions are needed, the DfE would expect local safeguarding partners to continue to be vigilant and responsive to all safeguarding threats with the aim of keeping vulnerable children safe, particularly those learning remotely.

If attendance restrictions are needed, Middleton Parish Church School will continue to have regard for all statutory safeguarding guidance that applies to us including:

- Keeping children safe in education 2021
- Working together to safeguard children
- Early Years (EYFS) Framework

We will aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site wherever possible. If the DSL or one of the Deputy DSLs are not on site they can be contacted via the office@email.

Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)	Felicity Wainwright	0161 643 0753
Deputy DSLs	Jackie Cooke Claire Rose Nikita Dawson	0161 643 0753
Email: office@middletonparishce.rochdale.sch.uk		

Attendance

If attendance at school is restricted, systems will be put in place to maintain contact with all pupils in order to check on their ability to access remote education and to check on pupils' mental health and wellbeing. Contact with pupils will be reported to Phase leaders weekly and where there has been no contact welfare visits will be undertaken and where necessary police welfare checks requested.

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.

If all onsite provision has to be stopped for a short period, then alternative arrangements for vulnerable pupils would be discussed with the Local Authority.

School Meals

We will provide hot meals for all pupils who are in school, we will also continue to provide free school meals in the form of lunch parcels to all pupils eligible for benefits related free school meals who are not attending because they:

- Are self-isolating
- Have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves
- Are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19
- Are at home as a result of the setting being closed.

Educational Visits.

In the event of restricted attendance being imposed, educational visits will not be undertaken.

Communication

Parents, carers, pupils and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of control measures. This will be done via Class Dojo once a decision has been made.