

COVID-19: Outbreak Management Plan

St Nicholas School, Canterbury



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1. Introduction

St Nicholas School has a full and detailed COVID-19 Risk Assessment to manage our daily operations, which reflect the current national guidance and local coronavirus health situation. If there is an outbreak within school or at a local level we may then need to introduce the enhanced measures of our COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan.

This plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19, published by the Department for Education (DfE) and the Public Health England South East England Educational Settings Outbreak Plan (Version 6).

We will only implement some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by our local authority (LA), director 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:

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school
- 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)
- As St Nicholas School is a special school for pupils with Profound, Severe and Complex Learning (including Health) needs we have been granted "Escalated status" and will be supported by Public Health England in the event of any outbreaks in school.

2. Testing

If recommended, we will increase the use of home testing by pupils and staff. If it is advised that we reintroduce a one-booth asymptomatic testing site (ATS) at our school, we will consult with the director of public health (DsPH) to discuss any further support we need to do this.

If we need to reintroduce on-site asymptomatic testing:

- Testing will take place between 9 and 11am
- The one-booth test centre will be located in the gym once again
- Testing will be available to pupils who need support administering their twice weekly or daily tests.

3. Face coverings

In the event of an outbreak, pupils, staff and visitors who are not exempt from wearing a face covering:

- Will be required to wear a face covering in classrooms and/or during activities, unless social distancing can be maintained or a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity.

4. 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.

5. Other measures

We will:

- Be supported by PHE in the event of any outbreak due to our “escalated status” because of our highly vulnerable pupils.

If recommended, we will limit:

- Residential educational visits
- Open days
- Transition or taster days
- Parents and non-essential visitors coming into school
- Live performances
- The movement of specialist teachers between sites and may introduce virtual creative arts sessions
- Access to the hydro pool
- Access to the dining hall

We will re-introduce:

- daily temperature checks
- class bubbles including the drop off to and collection from class (avoiding the busy hall)
- the suspension of specialist curriculum and therapy withdrawal groups
- the use of full PPE for close/personal care activities.

6. Attendance restrictions

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

6.1 Eligibility to remain in school

In the first instance, we will stay open for all pupils in class bubble groups.

If further restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- Children of critical workers
- The most vulnerable pupils according to our risk assessment (those considered safer at school than at home)
- Any other pupil with an EHC wishing to have a place, but on a part-time basis.

6.2 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 and accessible via the school website.

The school will continue to provide meals or lunch parcels for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines. We will re-introduce the voucher system.

6.3 Wraparound care

In the event of a school outbreak or the re-introduction of local/national restrictions we will close our breakfast club opportunities.

6.4 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 all sites wherever possible.

If our DSL (or deputy) can't be on site, the DSL can be contacted remotely his mobile phone - 07758746522.

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