

**ST ANSELM'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19): OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Learning and growing together through prayer, belief and love



Headteacher: Mrs Maria O'Connell

COVID Coordinator: Carol Gleeson

INTRODUCTION

St Anselm's School is committed to the rights of children to the best possible health, and therefore adopts a whole school approach to the health care and management of those members of our school community in respect of COVID-19. This plan has been created in line with the latest government advice regarding contingency planning as set out in the DfE's '[Contingency framework: education and childcare settings](#)' and '[Schools COVID-19 operational guidance](#)' documents. The government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to stay open as much as possible during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Any restrictions on education would only be as a last resort and should only be initiated following a ministerial decision on a case-by-case basis.

AIMS

If St Anselm's School or the or local area sees an extremely high prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection rates and existing measures in our community have failed to reduce this, the appropriate authorities will decide which additional measures to implement to help contain the spread. These measures may involve implementing a number of restrictions, which could include the partial closure of schools and childcare settings in our area. Measures may also be necessary to help minimise the impact from new coronavirus variants.

This Outbreak Management Plan, outlines how the school will operate if further restrictions are implemented. The school will work closely with the Harrow Health Protection Team and implement provisions as advised by the team.

This plan will be reviewed by the headteacher, in conjunction with other key stakeholders, as and when the situation develops.

RESTRICTIONS TO ATTENDANCE

The government has advised that all schools should continue to operate as normal and that all children should attend school unless required to self-isolate.

The contingency framework is designed to act as a containment measure where:

- There is extremely high prevalence of coronavirus.
- Other measures have already been implemented.
- There is a need to minimise the impact from a new coronavirus variant.

Restrictive attendance measures, of the kind set out in the contingency framework, must not be implemented by schools without the explicit agreement of the DfE.

Restricting attendance in any form will only be used as a last resort, initiated following a ministerial decision. Where restrictions to attendance are implemented following government advice, they will be kept to a minimum, allowing for the maximum number of children to attend education; however, in all circumstances, priority will be given to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers to attend full time.

As part of their outbreak management responsibilities, Local Authorities (LA's), Directors of Public Health, and Health Protection Teams (HPT's) may advise individual settings or a cluster of closely linked settings to limit attendance in one of the ways described in this section.

Where LAs judge that wider containment action is needed and wish to limit attendance within an area, they will work with their Regional Partnership Team to escalate a proposal to the central Local Action Committee command structure.

Unless advised otherwise, the school will allow all children to attend. If the contingency framework is implemented, the school will only allow the following children to attend on-site provision:

- Vulnerable children
- Children of critical workers
- Children in Reception and Years 1 and 2, where advised by the DfE

High-quality remote education will be provided for all children not in attendance, in line with the Remote Learning Plan.

The school will lift restrictions as soon as it is advised by the government that it is appropriate to do so.

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The school's Infection Control Policy will continue to be adhered to – this policy meets the requirements set out in the DfE's system of controls.

Any member of the school community who displays symptoms of coronavirus will be required to self-isolate and encouraged to get a confirmatory Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test. Tests can be booked online or ordered by telephone via NHS 119. Critical workers, including school staff, have priority access to testing.

Staff are currently being provided with rapid-result lateral flow device (LFD) testing kits, to identify asymptomatic cases of coronavirus.

If a variant of coronavirus classed as a variant of concern (VoC) is identified within the school's geographical area, the school will partake in targeted testing by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to help suppress and control any possible new cases. The school will also adhere to advice from Directors of Public Health in relation to the temporary reintroduction of face coverings.

If a child develops symptoms of coronavirus while on site, they will be taken to a designated isolation area while they wait to be collected. If required, the child will be supervised while they await collection. If the supervising member of staff is unable to socially distance, e.g. due to the child's age or needs, they will wear PPE.

After the child has left the premises, any areas they were in will be cleaned. The child's parents will be encouraged to get their child tested with a confirmatory PCR test as soon as possible. The child will be required to self-isolate for at least 10 days – remote education will be arranged for them immediately.

If a staff member develops symptoms while on site, they will be directed to go home immediately to self-isolate and to get a PCR test. Cover arrangements will be put in place.

Any staff members or children who have been in close contact with a symptomatic individual at school will not need to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves. From 16 August, fully vaccinated adults, and children under the age of 18 who have been identified as close contacts of a positive case via the NHS Test and Trace service will not need to self-isolate unless advised by a healthcare professional.

Adults who receive their second dose of the vaccine close to 16 August will need to continue to follow the same rules as unvaccinated adults until two weeks after their second dose. Unvaccinated adults and adults who have only had one dose of the vaccine will need to continue to follow the rules on self-isolation if they have been identified as a close contact of a positive case.

If an individual tests positive, the school will contact the DfE Helpline on 0800 046 8687 and select Option 1, where a team of NHS advisers will decide what action is needed based on the latest public health advice. The school will follow the expert advice, which could include working with the local HPT if the situation is escalated by the advisers.

The individual's close contacts at school – where they do not fulfil the criteria outlined in this section of the contingency plan from 16 August – will be sent home to self-isolate for 10 days and encouraged to get a PCR test. If more individuals test positive, the school will follow advice from the local HPT, which may include requiring more people to self-isolate.

As the result of an outbreak during step 4 of the coronavirus recovery roadmap, a temporary requirement could be implemented for staff to resume wearing face coverings in areas other than crowded spaces where they are likely to come into contact with others they would not normally meet. This may include face coverings being reintroduced in communal areas and classrooms for members of staff. The school may also be required to reintroduce the use of bubbles in order to resume social distancing and limit the transmission of coronavirus. The school will adhere to any conditions set out by the local HPT.

TRANSPORT

Children and staff attending school will be encouraged to walk or cycle wherever possible and to avoid public transport. If children and staff need to use public transport, they may be required to wear a face covering while travelling, unless exempt.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

If restrictions to on-site education are required, the school will offer immediate access to high-quality remote education for all children who are required to remain at home. All remote learning will be delivered in line with the school's Remote Learning Plan which can be seen on the school website.

Where advised during a local outbreak, further restrictions may be enforced with regards to certain musical and drama activities, e.g. singing, for children attending on-site provision, to help reduce the risk of transmitting coronavirus via aerosols. Restrictions may also be reintroduced to contact and indoor sports. The school will follow the advice provided by Harrow HPT.

Teachers will ensure lessons are suitable to the class group's age and ability, inclusive for all children, and will be adapted, where necessary, to account for the needs of disadvantaged children and children with SEND.

The school will utilise the support available through the DfE's '[Get help with technology during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)' scheme. Under the scheme, the school can order laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers to support the following groups of children if they do not have access to a digital device or the internet through other means:

- Children in Years 3 to 6
- Clinically extremely vulnerable children across all year groups who are not attending school in line with government and/or clinical advice

- Children in any year group who have been advised to shield because they, or somebody they live with, are clinically extremely vulnerable

Before distributing devices, the school will ensure:

- The devices are set up to access remote education.
- Appropriate safeguarding controls and support are in place to help children and their families use the devices safely.

Once devices are ready for collection, the school will either arrange for them to be collected by families from school or delivered to children's homes, ensuring infection control measures are adhered to as part of this process.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL

The headteacher will work with the LA to ensure children only return to school when it is safe for them to do so. Prior to the return of more children and staff, all relevant risk assessments will be reviewed.

Where advised to do so by the Director of Public Health and/or the local HPT, the school may encourage staff to undertake LFD tests at home prior to their return to school and/or for a period of time following their return. The school will continue to recognise that testing is voluntary.

The headteacher will inform staff, children and parents, prior to the return to school, whether any further restrictions, such as the use of bubbles and face coverings, have been resumed.

After a period of self-isolation, or the relaxation of restrictions, the headteacher will inform parents when their child will return to school.

The headteacher will listen to all concerns that parents may have about their child returning to school and will advise them of the measures in place to ensure the safety of their child.

Exams and assessments

The school will remain open for any statutory assessments planned in line with current government guidance. Wherever necessary, the school will implement additional mitigations to ensure the safe delivery of these assessments, which may include:

- Wearing face coverings in communal areas, where directed.
- Two-metre spacing between all desks, where directed.
- Additional controls for children who are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable. This may include measures such as seating them in a separate room to other children.

SAFEGUARDING

Ensuring safeguarding arrangements remain effective during periods of restricted attendance is a key priority. The Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy has been updated to include provisions for keeping children safe during the coronavirus pandemic, both at home and in school – we will continue to follow these procedures for children who remain at home, where appropriate, until all children are able to return to school.

We will continue to ensure that:

- The best interests of children always come first.

- If anyone in the school has a safeguarding concern about a child, they act immediately.
- A DSL or deputy DSL is always available.
- Unsuitable individuals are not permitted to work with children or come into contact with children whilst on site.
- Children who remain at home are protected when they are online.

A trained DSL or deputy will remain on-site where possible. Where this is not possible, e.g. they are required to self-isolate, the school will ensure that the DSL or deputy, or a DSL or deputy from another school, are available to contact at all times. In addition, the headteacher will take responsibility for coordinating safeguarding on-site during this time.

FOOD PROVISION

We will provide hot lunches for all children who are attending school.

We will provide FSM or vouchers to eligible children who are not attending school, where they:

- Are self-isolating.
- Have had symptoms or have tested positive.
- Are not attending due to the implementation of local restrictions advised by the government.

COMMUNICATION

The school will communicate its plan for addressing any imposed restrictions with parents, including in relation to:

- Opening arrangements.
- Access for specific targeted groups where applicable, such as certain year groups, vulnerable children and children of critical workers.
- Any reviews of the school's protective measures as part of our risk assessments.
- The arrangements for remote working.

All relevant stakeholders will be kept up-to-date with the circumstances of any imposed restrictions and how these affect the school as the situation develops.

If any member of the school community wishes to discuss any concerns relating to the school's provision during this period, they should contact the following as appropriate:

- Staff – a member of the HLT
- Children – their class teacher or teaching assistant
- Parents – the headteacher

MONITORING AND REVIEW

This plan will be reviewed continually, by the headteacher, in line with guidance from the government and Public Health England (PHE).

Any changes to the plan will be communicated to all relevant stakeholders as soon as possible.