**The Ellis C of E Primary school**

**Covid-19 School Outbreak Management Plan**

*Updated 6.9.21*

**1.0 Introduction**

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 help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within a setting.
* As part of a package of measures responding to a Variant of Concern.
* The government announces local or national lockdown measures if there is an extremely high prevalence of COVID-19.

The impact of having missed education during the pandemic is still unknown for many children and adults. It is clear however that there is still work to be done to ensure all children are where they should be academically and that any gaps in their attainment and progress are being rapidly addressed.

This Covid-19 Outbreak Management Plan describes what **The Ellis C of E Primary school** would do if children, pupils, students or staff test positive for COVID-19, or how they would operate if they were advised to reintroduce control measures to help break chains of transmission.

**2.0 Principles**

Covid-19 resilience and planning is now more important than ever. This Outbreak Management Plan should be kept robust and up to date in light of the advice set out in the Government’s [Contingency Framework for childcare and education settings](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011704/20210817_Contingency_Framework_FINAL.pdf).

Any control measures put in place will be regularly reviewed and changed as and when it is safe to do so. Schools will continue to respond to the evidence being provided at a local and national level and act accordingly in line with guidance.

2.1 Aims

* To ensure that **The Ellis C of E Primary school** continues to provide high quality Education whilst providing a safe working and learning environment for staff and students
* To aid the prevention and mitigation of the spread of Covid-19 cases through effective engagement with our community on Government, public health and school rules
* To support the health and wellbeing of students and staff who become infected, and their contacts, in line with current Government guidance.
* To prepare for any community or school outbreak in partnership with BMBC, NHS and PHE.
* To support staff and students beyond immediate outbreak control (health and wellbeing, equality, diversity, and inclusion).
* To identify strategic ownership and leadership of the School’s Outbreak Management Plan and clear escalation protocols.

**3.0 Guidance**

**The Ellis C of E Primary school** will continue to respond to the latest guidance and advice from:

* National Government
* Public Health England (PHE)
* Local Authority Public Health (Barnsley Council)
* Department for Education

3.1 Any member of the school community (children, pupils, staff and other adults) **should not attend the setting** if they:

* Have any of the main Covid-19 symptoms (i.e., a high temperature (37.8 or higher), a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to sense of smell or taste).
* Have tested positive for Covid-19 (less than 11 days ago).
* Have been contacted through NHS Test and Trace and been advised to stay at home, unless exempt from self-isolation-

Asymptomatic contacts do not need to self-isolate if either:

* they’re under 18
* they had their second vaccine dose from the NHS more than 14 days ago.

**If any individual becomes symptomatic whilst in school they will be sent home immediately and asked to book a Covid-19 PCR test.**

**4.0 School’s Roles and Responsibilities**

4.1 The Ellis C of E school has responsibility for ensuring basic infection prevention and control measures are in place, as per the national guidance.

4.2 The Ellis C of E school has responsibility for implementing secure data management systems to keep a record of confirmed cases. Ensuring that managers recognise the sensitive personal nature of this information and that it is collected ethically and securely, with the appropriate governance, regulatory and security measures in place.

4.3 The Ellis C of E school has responsibility for updating school specific Covid-19 risk assessments in line with national guidance. Covid-19 risk assessments are updated in consultation with School Leaders and BMBC colleagues where necessary. Risk assessments should be in place for vulnerable individuals (clinically vulnerable, pregnant women and BAME).

4.4 The Ellis C of E school has a responsibility to ensure Lateral Flow Test (LFT) home testing kits are provided to staff for twice a week testing, and to pupils where consented.\*

\**Secondary schools only - delete where appropriate*

4.5 The Ellis C of E school has responsibility for the updating, implementation, and evaluation of this Plan.

**5.0 When and how to seek Public Health advice**

**5.1 Single Confirmed Covid-19 Case**

If there is a single positive case identified in an individual attending **The Ellis C of E primary** the setting **does not need to notify any other agency**.

The school may seek support from the DfE helpline if necessary (accessible 7 days a week) 0800 046 8687 (option 1) or the [DfE Portal.](https://services.signin.education.gov.uk/)

The following steps will be taken in line with the latest guidance:

* All contact tracing will be undertaken by NHS Test and Trace.
* From 16 August 2021, asymptomatic children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, they will be informed that they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.
* A remote learning plan will be implemented for those isolating.
* From 16 August 2021, asymptomatic staff members who are fully vaccinated will also not need to self-isolate following close contact with a positive case. They will however be asked to take a Lateral Flow Test/ PCR test before returning to school.
* Any individual who has symptoms or who has tested positive for Covid-19 must self-isolate in line with Government guidance.

**All settings should seek advice if a pupil or staff member is admitted to hospital with Covid-19**. They can do this by phoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1). Hospitalisation could indicate increased severity of illness or a new Variant of Concern. Settings may be offered public health support in managing risk assessments and communicating with staff and parents.

**5.2 Multiple Confirmed Covid-19 Cases**

If there are multiple linked confirmed cases amongst individuals attending **The Ellis C of E Primary school** within 14 days, the school **may** have an outbreak.

The school may seek support from the BMBC Children and Young People’s Public Health team via[**Covid19childrenandeducationreporting@barnsley.gov.uk**](mailto:Covid19childrenandeducationreporting@barnsley.gov.uk) **when** **one of the following thresholds is reached:**

* For most education and childcare settings, whichever of these thresholds is reached first:
  + 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; OR
  + 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period.
* For special schools, residential settings, and settings that operate with 20 or fewer children, pupils, students and staff at any one time:
  + 2 children, pupils, students and staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period.

The school will work in collaboration with BMBC Public Health to reach a decision around what measures **may** need to be put in place in line with this Plan (see section 6.0 below).

**6.0 Measures that School has planned for**

The table below outlines: measures that may be reintroduced following a discussion with BMBC Public Health; actions to be taken to put the measure in place quickly; how The Ellis C of E primary school would ensure every pupil receives the quantity and quality of education and support to which they are normally entitled; and how changes would be communicated with children, parents, carers and staff.

The Government’s[Covid-19 Contingency Framework for education and childcare settings](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011704/20210817_Contingency_Framework_FINAL.pdf) should be used to support development of the below table (from page 12).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Measure to be planned for** | **Action** | **How we would ensure every pupil receives the quantity and**  **quality of education and support to which they are normally entitled** | **How we would communicate changes to children, parents, carers**  **and staff** |
| **Testing** – may be advised:   * for an individual setting or a small cluster of settings only, by directors of public health as part of their responsibilities in outbreak management (in most cases a ‘cluster’ will be no more than 3 or 4 settings linked in the same outbreak), or * for settings across areas that have been offered an enhanced response package, where settings and directors of public health decide it is appropriate | Respond to Public Health informing testing needs to increase  Ensure we always have a good stock of lateral flow tests in school  Communication with parents directly when needed re needing PCR testing  Respond to Track and Trace requests and inform all who need to know  Staff to continue to regularly use lateral flow tests twice increase but increase if there has been a positive case in school or told to by Public Health | Children continue to be able to attend school and remote learning systems continue to be in place if needed. School will continue to use Seesaw as part of home learning, evidence for the curriculum and for school communication with parents.  Testing to take place ideally out of learning time | Email parents  Facebook – Mrs H Vlogs  Texting  Twitter  Staff WhatsApp group |
| **Face coverings –** may be advised:   * for an individual setting or a small cluster of settings only, by directors of public health as part of their responsibilities in outbreak management (in most cases a ‘cluster’ will be no more than 3 or 4 settings linked in the same outbreak), or * for settings across areas that have been offered an enhanced response package, where settings and directors of public health decide it is appropriate | Public Health may advise face coverings to be temporarily used in school  Face coverings to be used in the setting if needed. Face coverings in communal areas, classes and parents collected to return if needed | Children continue to be able to attend school and remote learning systems continue to be in place if needed. School will continue to use Seesaw as part of home learning, evidence for the curriculum and for school communication with parents.  Limit use as much as possible in own classes if safe to do so to support teaching | Email parents  Facebook – Mrs H Vlogs  Texting  Twitter  Staff WhatsApp group |
| **Shielding –** can only be reintroduced by national Government. | Shielding may be reintroduced  Follow guidance  Extremely Clinically staff to communicate with their medical team  Follow shielding needs if Government reintroduce | Shielding staff supporting remote learning, cover in school  Clinically vulnerable staff continue to have individual Risk Assessments in school to include  limiting contacts with others, wearing masks and keeping socially distanced beyond their classroom/ office | Direct conversations with staff  Individual Risk Assessments in place |
| **Other measures – Residential Educational Visits** | Risk assessments in place for residential visits  Cancel if no longer deemed safe | We want to ensure our children can attend residential visits if safe to do so | Email parents  Facebook – Mrs H Vlogs  Texting  Twitter  Staff WhatsApp group |
| **Other measures – Open Days** | RA still recommends the decrease of adults in school.  The situation will continually be assessed.  Initially we are going to review Autumn term 21 as it is the first time children are mixing.  Large gatherings of parents will not be planned initially. | Children continue to be able to attend school and remote learning systems continue to be in place if needed. School will continue to use Seesaw as part of home learning, evidence for the curriculum and for school communication with parents. | Email parents  Facebook – Mrs H Vlogs  Texting  Twitter  Staff WhatsApp group |
| **Other measures – Transition or taster days** | Cancel if needed.  We cancelled the Summer transition as the CV-19 cases were high in the area and we had 50% of school off due to Pod closure  September transition has only had parents in at set times for Nursery and F2 | Children continue to be able to attend school and remote learning systems continue to be in place if needed. School will continue to use Seesaw as part of home learning, evidence for the curriculum and for school communication with parents. | Email parents  Facebook – Mrs H Vlogs  Texting  Twitter  Staff WhatsApp group |
| **Other measures – Parental Attendance in settings** | If needed we will stop parents coming into school. Re-introduce mask wearing.  We have reduced parent footfall as the children continue to be dropped off and collected at the main gates.  If we need to bring back the staggered times of Pod school, we will. | Children continue to be able to attend school and remote learning systems continue to be in place if needed. School will continue to use Seesaw as part of home learning, evidence for the curriculum and for school communication with parents. | Email parents  Facebook – Mrs H Vlogs  Texting  Twitter  Staff WhatsApp group |
| **Other measures – Performances in Settings** | We will keep reviewing but currently we want to wait for the impact of all children in school before we have large gatherings of parents inside school | Children continue to be able to attend school and remote learning systems continue to be in place if needed. School will continue to use Seesaw as part of home learning, evidence for the curriculum and for school communication with parents. | Email parents  Facebook – Mrs H Vlogs  Texting  Twitter  Staff WhatsApp group |
| **Attendance Restrictions -**Attendance restrictions should only ever be considered in extreme circumstances and as a last resort. | We will reduce children attending school if Public Health advise us to | Face to face education continues to be the priority.  Priority will be given to vulnerable children and younger children to attend.  High- quality remote learning will be in place if needed using Seesaw | Email parents  Facebook – Mrs H Vlogs  Texting  Twitter  Staff WhatsApp group |