

Newbridge School

SOCIAL DISTANCING COVID-19 POLICY

Policy Implemented April/update September 2020

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Our Commitment to Pupils' Safety and Well-being

At Newbridge School we respect and value all children. We are committed to providing a safe and secure environment where all pupils feel able to access education. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services, at Newbridge School. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

Introduction:

Newbridge School is currently in contact with pupils at home to check on their well-being. They are able to provide support from home to ensure your child is coping with the current lockdown measures. This has been put in place to help support the national guidelines which remain in place: stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives. The risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19 are significant and the safety and well-being of all our pupils' remains our overwhelming priority.

The government are asking schools, local authorities and families to work together to establish whether a child's needs can be met safely at home during this time. Many children and young people with an Education, Health and Care plan can remain safely at home, and where this is the case, it may be more appropriate for them to do so to ensure the safety and well-being of the wider community. This policy document has been written to explain the social distancing measures and procedures

Newbridge School will be adhering to for the families who feel pupils are not safe at home. Newbridge School is adhering to the up-to-date government social distancing guidelines, placing the pupils' safety and well-being at the core. This document should be used alongside the individual pupil risk assessments to help support the identification of pupils who need to be attending school.

This document has been written in conjunction with the following government guidelines:

'Coronavirus (COVID-19): Implementing social distancing in education and childcare settings' found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings>.

'Supporting vulnerable children and young people during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak' found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidanceon-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>.

The following points are important to note:

- children are likely to become infected with coronavirus (COVID-19) at roughly the same rate as adults, but the infection is usually mild.
- the most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough or a high temperature (over 37.8 degrees).

- for the vast majority of children and staff, coronavirus (COVID-19) will not cause serious illness.

Children and young people with an EHC plan in all health categories, including the most vulnerable, may continue to attend education or a childcare setting as usual if their local authority risk assessment has determined this is appropriate, taking on board the views of their parents and the school.

The School Day

The school day will run from 9am – 2pm. It will consist of several different activities based within a limited number of classrooms. Pupils will have access to outside spaces at regular intervals throughout the day.

Behaviour Expectations

All pupils attending school are expected to follow the normal expectations of behaviour, and the expectations set out in this social distancing policy. Most importantly, to ensure the safety and well-being of all pupils and staff, pupils must listen and follow staff instructions at all times. By sending pupils into school, pupils have agreed to follow all aspects of this policy. Failure to adhere to the expectations set out in this policy, and/or any behaviour that places themselves or others at risk may result in the pupil being sent home immediately. The safety and well-being of all pupils and staff is the most important aspect of this policy. By sending your child into school, parents are agreeing to support the school to ensure pupils adhere to all the social distancing measures outlined in this policy that have been designed to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone at school. By sending your child into school, parents are also recognising the risks associated with social gatherings and by doing so, are acknowledging that the school environment cannot be a 100% risk free environment. There are several factors outside of the control of the staff team that may place your child at risk of contracting COVID-19. Any decisions made by the school will be taken to keep children and staff safe.

Section 1: Hygiene & Health

Health

- Pupils must not enter the school setting if they are displaying any of the COVID-19 symptoms.
- Pupils will be encouraged not to touch their faces, to use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste.

Handwashing

- The school has got several hand sanitiser stations. Pupils will be expected to use the hand sanitiser or wash their hands using anti-bacterial soap in the following situations:

- a) On entry and exit of the school.
- b) On entry and exit into every classroom.
- c) When they blow their nose, use the toilet, cough or sneeze, handle or eat food.
- d) After using the toilet.

Section 2: Social Distancing

- The pupils have been allocated a zone within another school setting with designated staff, their own entrance to the building and their own toilet facilities.
- Break times will be staggered at different times.
- There will be restricted access to the school site.

Section 3: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Staff will have the option of using PPE but it is not a statutory requirement.

Section 4: Restricted School Access

- Pupils and staff will have restricted access to the school site.
 - Pupils will have access to a limited number of classrooms only.
- Pupils will enter their learning spaces from the outside door only.
- Pupils will be given clear instruction as to which zone they will be using on entry to the school day.
- Pupils will have a staggered break time at different times.

Section 5: Toilets

- All pupils will have access to toileting facilities.
- Each of the three zones has its own toilet facilities.
 - All pupils must wash their hands for at least 20 seconds, with anti-bacterial soap, after using the toilets.

Section 6: School Lunches, break and lunch times

- School lunches will be provided by school.
- All pupils must wash their hands before the handle or eat food.
- Pupils will eat their lunch in the classroom they have been instructed to.

Section 7: Education

- The educational activities provided at school will be a range of academic, social and personal development activities aimed to supporting pupils' wellbeing rather than their academic progress.
 - Pupils will receive a significantly reduced formal education programme as the school will be operating a skeleton staff team.
- Learning activities will be delivered by a range of staff members, including non-subject specialists.
 - Where possible, pupils and parents will be asked to bring in their home learning packs every day so they can continue to work on them during the school day. They will be able to be provided with more work to take home with them after 1pm.
- Pupils will have access to movement breaks at different times of the day, at staggered times.

Section 8: Physical Intervention

- Staff will not be repeatedly physically intervening with pupils. If a pupil becomes deregulated to the point of needing a physical intervention on more than one occasion, parents will be called to come and collect their child immediately.
- Pupils must listen and follow staff instructions at all times. Failure to do so may result in parents being asked to collect their child early.

Section 9: Cleaning

- The school will be cleaned at the end of every day.
- General cleaning will happen during the day to ensure the safety and well-being of pupils and staff.

Section 10: Transport

- Parents must bring their pupils into school or taxis will be provided for students on an individual basis to support social distancing.
- Government guidelines state that schools must consider how to reduce any unnecessary travel.

Section 11: Parents

- By sending your child into school, you are agreeing to adhere to all the social distancing measures outlined in this policy to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone at school.
- Talk to your child and explain the social distancing rules in this policy prior to arriving at school.
- Do not gather at the school entrance and model social distancing rules so that your child learns good practice.
- By sending your child into school, you are recognising the risks associated with social gatherings and by doing so, are acknowledging that the school environment cannot be a 100% risk free environment. There are several factors outside of the control of the staff team that may place your child at risk of contracting COVID-19.

Appendix 1

Behaviour Expectations during Covid – 19 Staff, Student and Parent Agreement:

I will work with staff to plan my day so that I can have fun.

Staff will have a variety of activities for me to take part in.

I will speak to the staff when I do not understand something.

I will ask for help when I need it.

I will go to reflection room if I need to.

I will wash my hands frequently throughout the day.

If I become physically aggressive I will be sent home. If I punch, hit, kick or spit I will be sent home.

Signed Student: _____

Signed Parent: _____ I have read
and explained this agreement to my child.

Appendix 2

See plan of school

APPENDIX 3

Addendum for pupils entering/exiting school sites

Identify the hazards	Who might be harmed ?	What measures are in place to reduce the risk?	What further action is needed to reduce the risk?	Estimate Risk Low Med High
COVID-19 Welcoming children back on site	Staff, children	<input type="checkbox"/> UK Government guidance being followed COVID19:implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings (11th May edition)	One-way entry and exit system to be introduced Ensure staff are have read	Low

		<p>COVID -19 :guidance for schools and other educational settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Parents will be sent a copy of this risk assessment and the COVID19 policy <input type="checkbox"/> Pupils will be reminded of handwashing requirements and illness triggers <input type="checkbox"/> Record kept of all attendees – sent to DFE daily and OCC weekly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Only one parent/guardian / escort will bring their children to school <input type="checkbox"/> Pupils to be dropped off at the school gates on either site <input type="checkbox"/> Parents / escorts do not enter the school site <input type="checkbox"/> At the school 	<p>the risk assessment and sign to ensure they fully understand and comply.</p>	
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		<p>gates there will be an in and out system allowing 2m social Distancing. At RSS pupils met by staff and escorted into building. At TR, staff to meet pupils at gate and take them round the building to the back fire exit to the classroom.</p> <p>Do not go through the rest of the building.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Information posters are present across site on hygiene and social distancing<input type="checkbox"/> Children will come to school with a personal water bottle and pencil case/bag		
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Appendix 4

How should schools operate during a local lockdown?

Please note this plan was created using the Government's "Contain Framework" and "Guidance for Tier 2 Restrictions."

Overview

If the rate of coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission rises above a certain level in a specific area, the government may place this area under a local lockdown. This would involve a return to stricter infection control and social distancing measures, as experienced nationwide earlier in the pandemic.

For schools, this may mean staying open only for a limited set of pupils, with vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers being prioritised. This also applies to early years settings. The appropriate authorities, including Public Health England (PHE) and the DfE, will decide which control measures to implement and will advise schools on the best course of action if a local lockdown occurs.

During a local lockdown, it is especially important to limit interactions with others, follow social distancing guidelines, stay two metres away from others, and maintain good hygiene. It is also important to carry out additional cleaning, particularly in schools.

If you or a member of your household/support bubble has coronavirus symptoms, everyone in your household should stay home. If you or a member of your household/support bubble is contacted by NHS Test and Trace, only that individual needs to stay home. If that individual then develops symptoms, their whole household will need to stay home.

Tiers of restriction

The government has outlined four different tiers of restriction for schools, which will be followed during a local lockdown based on the severity of the outbreak. Tier 1 is implemented when an area first goes into local lockdown. The tier numbers then rise as the severity of the outbreak increases. The tiers can be implemented in reverse as restrictions on the local area are eased.

In all tiers, all pupils in Year 7 and above and staff should wear face coverings in communal areas where social distancing cannot be easily maintained. This excludes those who are exempt from wearing face coverings.

Schools not in areas of local lockdown do not need to implement the restrictions in these tiers.

In tier 1:

All schools will remain open to all pupils.

In tier 2:

Early years settings, primary schools, alternative provision and special schools will remain open to all pupils.

Secondary schools should use a rota model for attendance, combining on-site provision with remote education; however, vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers should attend full-time.

Colleges should adopt similar principles to secondary schools, using their discretion to determine a model that limits numbers on site and works for their setting.

The DfE has released specific guidance on planning for tier 2 restrictions, which can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-schools-can-plan-for-tier-2-local-restrictions/how-schools-can-plan-for-tier-2-local-restrictions>

In tier 3:

Early years settings, primary schools, alternative provision and special schools will remain open to all pupils.

Secondary schools and colleges should only provide full-time on-site education for vulnerable pupils, the children of critical workers and 'selected year groups' – the DfE is yet to define or provide guidance on this term, though their current guidance mentions pupils with upcoming assessments or who are in key transition years. Remote education should be provided for all other pupils.

In tier 4:

Alternative provision and special schools should remain open to all pupils.

Early years settings, primary and secondary schools, and colleges should only provide on-site education for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. Remote education should be provided for all other pupils.

Shielding

If coronavirus infection rates rise in local areas, those who were previously advised to shield may need to shield again while infection rates are high. Other members of their household may also be advised to shield. Those who

are shielding are advised to maintain strict social distancing, stay two metres away from others (including those they live with), and not form support bubbles.

Those who are clinically vulnerable, but not shielding, are advised to minimise contact with others. These individuals should also be cautious when considering whether to form a support bubble, and who with, e.g. those who are highly exposed to coronavirus, such as healthcare staff.

Pupils who are following guidance to shield or self-isolate should not be penalised for non-attendance. They should be given access to remote education as soon as possible.

Travel

During a local lockdown, movement into, out of, and within the affected areas should be limited to essential travel.

Critical workers, including school staff, are permitted to travel into and out of the affected areas to go to work. Vulnerable children and the children of critical workers, and parents providing transport, are also permitted to travel into and out of the affected areas to go to school, care, and meet

ngs with social workers or family courts.

Reference Documents

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-schools-can-plan-for-tier-2-local-restrictions>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/containing-and-managing-local-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreaks>