



Important Coronavirus (COVID-19): Interim Contingency Update

January 2021

Background

Our original plan was created in line with the advice regarding contingency planning in the DfE's '[Full opening guidance: schools](#)'. Today, updated national guidance has been issued by the DfE for how schools should operate during this local lockdown.

Myself, Chair and Vice-Chair of Governors will agree and update our risk assessment again this week, to reflect today's update. We will also update our full Contingency Plan and share this with you all.

Key Changes/Updates for Tier 5 Lockdown

Minimise contact:

"The overarching principle to apply is reducing the number of contacts between children and staff. This can be achieved through keeping groups separate (in 'bubbles') and through maintaining the distance between individuals. Whilst schools are attended by vulnerable children and the children of critical workers only, where possible schools should keep group sizes small. For children old enough, they should also be supported to maintain distance and not touch staff where possible. Any additional space available where there are lower numbers of pupils attending, should be used wherever possible to maximise the distance between pupils and between staff and other people."

Critical Workers (attendance in school of critical workers' and vulnerable children):

The guidance states the following:

"Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school if required. This includes parents who may be working from home. Schools should speak to parents and carers to identify who needs

to go to school. If it proves necessary, schools can ask for simple evidence that the parent in question is a critical worker, such as their work ID badge or pay slip. **Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.** We know that every school will have a different number of children of critical workers who need to attend. It is important that on-site provision is provided for these pupils, **and there is no limit to numbers of these pupils who may attend and schools should not limit attendance of these groups.** This is because we are reducing overall social contact across areas and the country rather than individually by each institution".

The maximum number of pupils who can attend our school under Tier 5 rules is 15 pupils in each of our two bubbles, as was the case during the March lockdown. This is in line with the Health and Safety Covid-19 risk assessment for our building.

Updated Remote Education Guidance

As per Gavin Williamson's statement in parliament this confirms the core time expected and also sets out the full statutory expectations:

"The remote education provided should be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school and will include both recorded or live direct teaching time, and time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently. The amount of remote education provided should be, as a minimum:

- *Key Stage 1: 3 hours a day on average across the cohort, with less for younger children*
- *Key Stage 2: 4 hours a day*

All remote learning will be delivered via our online platforms School360 (Y1-6), **including Google Classroom for Key Stage 2 pupils**, and Tapestry (EYFS pupils). Access instructions are on our website or have been sent home via ParentMail or letter. Pupils from Y1 above have individual login details and use these in school also. Their 'network' logins are only needed in school.

Please let us know if you will have problems supporting your child/children with online access. If needed, learning resources can be requested as 'offline' resources, which can be collected from school by prior arrangement.

The times above include time for reading, phonics games, etc. and not just time online or completing recorded tasks.

Northumberland Local Authority have not allowed us to use Zoom video meetings in school, however, they are now going to allow us to use the pupils' School360 Gmail logins to access live video sessions for pupils via 'Google Meet'. I am in the process of writing a policy about safe usage of this application. Once this is shared and agreed, I am hoping we can set up some regular live check-ins/learning sessions for each class. Sadly, due to our terrible broadband, we will still be unable to offer daily live lessons for each class, but will set-up a rota to share the meagre bandwidth. DfE guidance also counts recorded video, such as the Ruth Miskin phonics sessions or White Rose Maths videos, as live directed teaching.

Testing

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Tests and summer exams are cancelled.

It is sad that the current escalation of Covid cases means we are back in lockdown once more, but we are all very thankful for your ongoing support and help with keeping us all safe and learning.

Kind regards,

Diane Lakey