

Stratford-sub-Castle Primary School

C-19 Risk Mitigation Statement/ Outbreak Management Plan & C-19 Risk Assessment

Term 1: Version #1 (September 2021)

Our overall rationale is to follow the guidance set out by the DFE:

Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak (27.08.21)

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

Contingency framework: education and childcare settings

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011704/20210817_Contingency_Framework_FINAL.pdf

These documents should be read in conjunction with the above publications.

C-19 Risk Mitigation Statement

At Stratford-sub-Castle Primary School, our overarching objective is to maximise the number of children in face-to face education and minimise any disruption, in a way that best manages the COVID-19 risk. We recognise that the negative effects of having missed face-to-face education during the pandemic are severe for children. However, measures affecting education 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 (VoC) or to extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community
- to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

Our school has contingency plans (sometimes called outbreak management plans) in place to ensure continuity of education if pupils or staff test positive for COVID-19 and the school would operate if advised to reintroduce any measures described in the *Contingency Framework* document, to help break chains of transmission. (See the school's website: *Business Continuity* section)

At Stratford-sub-Castle Primary School, our approach is to balance the risk of transmission against any educational drawbacks, keeping any measures to the minimum number of groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible. All measures are kept under regular review and will be lifted as soon as the evidence supports doing so.

At Stratford-sub-Castle Primary School, we recognise and comply with health and safety law by putting in place proportionate control measures. Risk assessments and subsequent plans are reviewed and updated regularly. These are ‘living documents’ and are adapted, as the circumstances in our school and the public health advice changes. This includes having active arrangements in place to monitor whether the controls are effective and working as planned.

Stratford-sub-Castle Primary School implements *The Operational Guidance*, which sets out the measures that all education settings should have in place to manage transmission of COVID-19 day to day. Standard control measures include:

1. Ensuring good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Baseline measures

The Operational Guidance sets out the measures that all education settings should have in place to manage transmission of COVID-19. Those relevant to Stratford-sub-Castle Primary include:

- staff in primary schools, should test themselves using LFD twice a week at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed
- all early years and wraparound childcare staff should also continue to test twice weekly
- those who test positive should isolate, take a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, and continue to isolate if the result is positive
- the implementation of high-quality blended learning arrangements so that any child who is well enough to learn from home can do so
- under-18s, irrespective of their vaccination status, and double vaccinated adults do not need to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a positive case. Such children are strongly advised to take a PCR test and, if a positive result is returned, then isolate.

‘Stepping up’ measures

Stratford-sub-Castle Primary School considers taking extra action if the number of positive cases substantially increases. This is because it could indicate transmission is happening in the setting. The thresholds, detailed below are used as an indication of when to seek public health advice. Public health advice is sought when either 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**

If the above thresholds are reached, the school reviews and reinforces the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures already in place in response to any advice received from outside agencies.

Outbreak Management Plan

When implementing additional risk mitigation measures, the school follows the advice of the Local Authority, the Department for Education and Public Health. In the event of a local or school outbreak, Stratford-sub-Castle Primary School will limit movement around the school, limit visitors to the school and revert to the Risk Assessment and C-19 Management Plan: prevention and control measures implemented in 2020/2021 academic year.

Shielding: Shielding can only be introduced by the National government.

School trips: In the event of a local outbreak, the school will postpone all school trips involving the use of transport. If the risk assessment allows; then local visits to outside locations may still be permissible (as long as it is within a sensible walking distance of the school). If a trip cannot be postponed, then it will be cancelled and parents refunded any contributions that they have made.

Transition events: These will be altered to reflect the local guidance at the time of the planned event.

Attendance restrictions: These are considered as a last resort and in consultation with the local authority and Public Health. If we are advised to limit attendance due to Covid-19 cases our remote learning plans will be reintroduced. If a local lockdown is implemented, all children will attend unless advised otherwise.

Staffing: Issues are considered on a class- by- class basis; with well-being and the smooth and effective operation of the school in mind. All decisions will endeavour to minimise disruption to the maximum number of children.

Safeguarding: The Headteacher, DHT/SENDco and Support Teacher will meet regularly to ensure that all children are monitored every three days. This may also focus on those pupils that are not attending and not accessing remote learning. Appropriate steps will then be determined and actions agreed and implemented. A designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy DSL will be onsite during the school day to ensure that any safeguarding concerns are addressed. In the extremely unlikely event that this is not possible then the school will work with Woodford Valley School to provide reciprocal cover.

Remote learning: Should events result in the need to restrict attendance then remote learning will be used for all pupils who are not attending the onsite provision. See *Remote Learning Offer (September 2021)* on the school website in the 'Business Continuity' section.

Vulnerable pupils: Where vulnerable pupils are absent, the school will:

- follow up with a parent or carer, working with the local authority and social worker to establish the reasons for absence and discuss concerns
- encourage the child to attend educational provision and discuss benefits with parents or carers
- focus discussions on the welfare of the child, ensuring that they can access appropriate education and support whilst they are at home
- if a vulnerable child is not attending school and is not engaging with remote learning then the senior leadership team will contact parents/carers daily in order to welfare check the children.