



# **COURT FIELDS SCHOOL**

## **LIVING WITH COVID-19 PLAN**

This policy was reviewed and received the full agreement of the Board of Trustees at their meeting in April 2022 and will be reviewed annually.

Signed: Chair of Governors:

Date: April 2022

Signed: Head Teacher:

Date: April 2022

## 1. Introduction

On Tuesday 29 March, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, set out the next steps for living with COVID-19 in England from Friday 1 April.

The updated guidance for education settings, released on Friday 1st April, advises schools to continue to promote robust health and safety measures. These includes good ventilation, frequent hand washing, regular hygiene reminders throughout the school day (particularly the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach) and thorough whole school cleaning procedures at the end of each day.

## 2. Symptoms and Testing

Symptoms of coronavirus in children - The mains symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste - this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- If you are unsure and require medical advice, call 111 or contact your doctor.
- Regular asymptomatic testing is not advised for staff or pupils in any education or childcare setting
- Schools can no longer order free lateral flow tests.

Updated guidance advises:

- ADULTS with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature – a thermometer should be used in order to accurately record temperature
- ADULTS with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious
- CHILDREN who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend
- CHILDREN with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days
- People at risk of serious illness from COVID-19, and eligible for treatments, will continue to get free tests to use if they develop symptoms

## 3. School Attendance

Since 8th March 2021, attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age.

Where vulnerable children and young people are absent, due to Covid-19, education settings will:

- follow up with the parent or carer, working with the local authority and social worker (where applicable), to explore the reason for absence and discuss their concerns
- encourage the child or young person to attend educational provision, working with the local authority and social worker (where applicable), particularly where the social

worker (where applicable) agrees that the child or young person's attendance is appropriate

- focus the discussions on the welfare of the child or young person and ensuring that the child or young person is able to access appropriate education and support while they are at home
- have in place procedures to maintain contact, ensure they are able to access remote education support, as required, and regularly check if they are doing so

#### **4. Mental Health**

At the moment, because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we are all dealing with a lot of uncertainty and frustration. It's easy to feel a bit overwhelmed and worried by everything you're hearing about COVID-19, and that's completely normal. [Click](#) here for resources that are available to help children and young people look after their mental health.

#### **5. Contingency Plan for Reintegration of Restrictions**

In the event of a future outbreak, we may be advised by Public Health England (PHE) to return to testing and would then follow all guidance as advised. For example, if school experienced:

- A higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of staff or pupil absences due to COVID-19 infection
- Evidence of severe disease due to COVID-19, e.g. if a pupil or staff member is admitted to hospital due to COVID-19
- A cluster of cases where there are concerns about the health needs of vulnerable pupils or staff

When one of the thresholds above is met, we will review the hygiene and ventilation measures already in place. If considering additional measures, we may also seek public health advice from a director of public health, their team or a health protection team. In this instance, we would make contact with PHE

- High-quality face-to-face education would remain a priority
- Attendance restrictions would only ever be considered as a short-term measure and as a last resort
- In all circumstances, priority would continue to be given to vulnerable children and young people and children of critical workers to attend to their normal timetables
- If restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:
  - Vulnerable pupils
  - Children of critical workers
  - Other groups, as advised by the Department for Education (DfE)
- High-quality remote education would be provided to all pupils not attending, to ensure that pupils' education is not disrupted
- Communication would be shared with all staff, parents and pupils as appropriate
- If advised to do so, we may have to reintroduce measures for testing / isolating year groups / staggering start and end of days, and / or break times
- If recommended, we will introduce the use of home testing by staff

- If recommended, staff and visitors who are not exempt from wearing a face covering may be asked to:
  - Keep on or put on a face covering when in communal areas
  - Wear a face covering in classrooms and teaching spaces, unless exempt

If restrictions on child, pupil and student attendance are ever needed, leaders of childcare and education settings will be best placed to determine the workforce required onsite and if it is appropriate for some staff to work remotely.

## **6. Safeguarding**

There will be no change to local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, which remain the responsibility of the 3 safeguarding partners:

- local authorities
- clinical commissioning groups
- chief officers of police

If attendance restrictions are needed in any education or childcare setting, we would expect all local safeguarding partners to be vigilant and responsive to all safeguarding threats with the aim of keeping vulnerable children and young people safe, particularly as more children and young people will be learning remotely.

All settings must continue to have regard to any statutory safeguarding guidance that applies to them, including:

- keeping children safe in education
- working together to safeguard children
- the early years foundation stage (EYFS) framework

It is expected that schools will have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. However, it is recognised that for some schools there may be operational challenges to this. In such cases, there are 2 options to consider:

- a trained DSL (or deputy) can be available to be contacted via phone or online video, for example working from home
- sharing trained DSLs (or deputies) with other schools within The Castle Partnership Trust

On occasions, where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader would take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.