

## **The Sovereign Trust Risk Assessment Summary for the Re-Opening of Schools: September 2020**

### **Introduction**

It is planned that all children, in all year groups and setting types, will return to school full time from the 2 September. We are mindful that specific transition back to school plans will be required for some of our children – leaders have been discussing issues with parents and we will make arrangements as required.

We are following guidance released by the DfE on 2 July; this guidance is endorsed by Public Health England and fully informs our risk assessment. The balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of a return to education, school will return to being compulsory in the autumn term. Time out of education is detrimental to the development and wellbeing for the majority of children.

Essential measures in our plan include:

- a requirement that people who are ill should stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school

### **Shielding**

Children will no longer be required to shield, but those who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school in September (usually at their next planned clinical appointment). Shielding may be advised in local areas if disease rates rise.

We are hopeful that all members of staff will be available from the start of the autumn term. It is important to note that absence of children and staff is likely to be higher than previously seen as acceptable; this is due caution around COVID and other ailments.

## **Education/Curriculum**

Baseline assessments will be completed for all children on return to school throughout September to enable us to target learning accordingly. Pupils will receive a high-quality education that targets development according to individual needs in their Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) and identified areas from the baseline. The areas of focus in the main will come under the following 3 key areas:

1. Communication and language
2. Personal, social and emotional development
3. Physical development

The curriculum remains broad and ambitious - all pupils continue to be taught a wide range of curriculum areas.

If remote learning is required, it will be high quality and individualised.

## **School set up / structure**

Schools in general will develop consistent groups (bubbles) to reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of children and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group. We will be adopting this strategy, although, it is recognised that maintaining distance and forming bubbles can be particularly difficult in special settings, particularly given the need for staff to administer care support and provide therapies to the children and young people attending. However, the average number of pupils attending a special school is much lower than the average number in a mainstream school, and this in itself, will help to limit the number of contacts for any individual.

We have implemented the following to manage our bubbles risk of transition:

- Clear audit trail of staff/pupil interactions with adults entering bubbles for teaching, therapies or interventions
- Divider down the middle of the corridor to ensure people only walk on one side of it
- If a child needs the toilet we will permit them to go, toilet use will be supervised. Only one child per class may go to the toilet at any one time.

Adults will wear PPE when supporting children who require assistance in the toilet

- Break times to be staggered and all playgrounds to be used.
- Indoor and outdoor play equipment to be cleaned after use by each group
- Children to have personalised pack of stationery/resources
- Cleaners to ensure all used surfaces are cleaned daily and disinfected regularly
- All soft furnishings, toys and soft toys have been removed that cannot easily be cleaned every day – children must not bring in these items from home unless it is a transition item and can then be put into a bag until the end of the day
- Where possible doors propped-open, and rooms need to be well ventilated. Windows open.
- Controls in place to manage drop off and pick up of children (see below)
- Groups will not mix indoors for traditional activities such as assemblies, lunch etc. Rotas in place for breaks, lunchtimes and use of outdoor space
- Outdoor learning to be utilised. 2 bubbles at a time can use the same outdoor space

### **Drop off and pick up arrangements**

Morning:

8:55am – 9:15am Transport unload and children taken to class

9:15am Children not on transport, parents park at pool end carpark. Children in classes 5,6,7 & 8 taken to rear of school and will be met at playground gates

Afternoon:

3:15pm Transport collect children

3:30pm parents collect from drop off points

There is some capacity for parents to park in the main carpark disabled bays and use the James' Garden entrance this will need to be planned and be due to individual children's needs

## **People within their household that have COVID 19 symptoms**

All staff, pupils, or persons within their household that have COVID 19 symptoms should not attend school until they can be tested. If test is negative they can return to school. Symptomatic people or parents of a child must apply for a test to check if they have the virus. This is called an antigen test. The most up-to-date information available can be found on the link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

Children or staff with symptoms will not be allowed to attend school until a) the test returns negative, or b) in the event of a positive test, they have fully recovered and completed the allotted period of self-isolation.

When we have information that a member of one of our bubbles has COVID-19 symptoms we will notify all members of that particular bubble. Members of the bubble will be able to continue to attend school. Further communication will be provided when the results of the test have been provided. A negative will be further proof that no further action is required. Any positive results, school will follow Public Health Trafford direction immediately.

Effective home learning is in place in the event of a child having to shield or self-isolate

It is appreciated that not all of our pupils will be able to take a COVID-19 test if they are displaying symptoms. Public Health Trafford have advised that families in this situation must follow guidance from their GP

## **It is vital that all members of our community comply with NHS Track and Trace**

The following are Pictor's procedures for use of PPE:

- Use of PPE is based on and updated in line with, changing medical advice and clear risk assessments.
- Staff are aware that the correct use of PPE does not only help to protect them but plays an important role in protecting the children they work with.

- Each member of staff will be issued with their own face shield and have access to face masks, gloves and aprons
  - PPE is mandatory in all circumstances that bring adults into close proximity with our children or in situations where staff are at risk of coming into contact with bodily fluids. Broadly speaking these situations fall into four categories:
1. Working in close proximity with a child to deliver learning activities to meet objectives in the EHC Plan
  2. Dealing with Children Who Require Physical / Medical Care – where staff are in close contact with a child to provide medical care, intimate care or to assist with feeding.
  3. Dealing with Children with Sensory Needs – where children are displaying sensory behaviours which increase the risk of contact with bodily fluids e.g. if a child has sensory behaviours that involves placing objects in their mouth.
  4. Dealing with Children with Behavioural Needs- where children display behaviours which would increase the risk of exposure to bodily fluids e.g. if a child's behaviour involves spitting, scratching or is self-injurious and involves open wounds.

A risk assessment regarding the use of PPE will be completed for each child by the class teacher. This risk assessment will be carried out by the staff and consider the child's needs in all four of the areas listed above