



## Covid Contingency Plan 2021-22

### Introduction

This plan is based on the contingency framework for managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 and the schools' operational guidance, published by the Department for Education (DfE).

We will only implement some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by our local authority (LA), directors of public health (DsPH), Public Health England (PHE) health protection team or the national government.

It may be necessary to implement these measures in the following circumstances:

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school. Actions will be considered when either of the following thresholds are met:
  - There are 5 positive cases amongst pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely within a 10-day period
  - 10% of pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive within a 10-day period
- If COVID-19 infection rates in the community are extremely high, and other measures have failed to reduce transmission
- As part of a package of measures responding to a 'variant of concern' (VoC)
- To prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

### Seeking Public Health Advice

When one of the thresholds above is met, we will review the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures already in place.

We will also seek public health advice from a director of public health or health protection team. The Headteacher, or designated member of the Senior Team, will be responsible for seeking this advice, and will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687).

### Testing

If recommended, we will increase the use of home testing by students and staff. If it is advised that we reintroduce an asymptomatic testing site (ATS) at our school, we will consult with the directors of public health (DsPH) to discuss any further support we need to do this.

If we reintroduce on-site asymptomatic testing:

- there will be 2 tests each week for every student who has parental consent to be tested, which will take place during the school day, with students being withdrawn from lessons for a very short time to complete the test
- this will take place in G6, which will be set up as on previous occasions
- parents will be advised by email in the week before testing commences to give them the opportunity to add or withdraw their consent

## **Face Coverings**

If recommended, students, staff and visitors who are not exempt from wearing a face covering:

- will be asked to keep on or put on a face covering when arriving at school and moving around indoors in places where social distancing is difficult to maintain, such as in communal areas

and, depending on the advice received:

- will be asked to wear a face covering in classrooms or during activities, unless social distancing can be maintained or a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity

## **Shielding**

We will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding, which would apply to those on the shielded patient list (SPL).

We will speak to individuals required to shield about additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning.

## **Other Measures**

Parents, carers, students and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of control measures. This will be done via email once a decision has been made.

If recommended, we will limit:

- Educational visits
- Admission Events, including visits and tours
- Transition days
- Parents coming into school
- Live performances

## **Attendance Restrictions**

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort. It is possible that some year groups will remain in school whilst others are taught remotely. If recommended, we will implement the measures in this section.

### Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable students
- Children of critical workers

### Education and support for students at home

All other students will be required to stay at home and will receive remote education. We will aim to deliver remote education that meets the same quality and quantity of education that students would receive in school, as outlined in our Remote Learning Plan 2021-22.

The school will continue to provide meals or lunch parcels for students eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines. Details of when these will be available for collection will be published via email.

### Safeguarding

We will review our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy to make sure it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective.

We will aim to have a trained Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL on site wherever possible. If they are not on site they will be remote teaching and can be contacted by email on [jnunn@stourvalley.org](mailto:jnunn@stourvalley.org) or [cbank@stourvalley.org](mailto:cbank@stourvalley.org)).

On occasions where there is no DSL or Deputy DSL on site, a member of the Senior Leadership Team will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

When vulnerable students expected on site are absent, we will:

- Speak to parents/carers and, where appropriate, social workers and the local authority, to work out the reason for absence
- Encourage attendance
- Ensure vulnerable students can access appropriate education and support while at home
- Maintain contact, and check regularly that the student is able to access remote education provision