



## COVID 19 Information for parents September 2020

### Background

All schools are re-opening fully this September. We are looking forward to welcoming back all our pupils.

We understand that parents, carers and pupils themselves may have concerns and be anxious about returning to school.

We hope the following helps reassure you that the safety of your child will be at the forefront of our practice at all times

It is difficult for children with special educational needs (SEND) to adhere to social distancing. We have therefore implemented other controls aimed at substantially reducing the risk of transmission of infection:

- Avoid contact with anyone with symptoms
- Frequent hand washing for 20 seconds – on arrival, before and after eating, before and after play-times and after sneezing or coughing
- Use of tissues to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
- Regular and enhanced cleaning of all areas of the school
- Minimising contact and mixing by altering the classroom layouts and school time-tables

**A detailed risk assessment has been developed and is on our web-site.**

### How we will attempt to secure social distancing?

- Staff and children will be based in small consistent class groups
- Each class will eat their lunch together and will take their breaks together
- 2-3 class groups have been organised into 'bubbles' to allow for play times, and wider support.
- Specific entrances have been identified for 'bubbles'
- Drop off and collection times will be staggered both for local authority transport and for parents transporting their child
- Parents and carers cannot gather at the gates or classroom doors or visit the school site for any reason other than to drop off or collect their child (unless a pre-arranged appointment is made)

### **Pupils where they are able will be encouraged to**

- Follow any altered routines for arrival or departure.
- Follow school instructions on hygiene, such as handwashing and sanitising.
- Follow instructions on social distancing and with which pupils they can socialise with at school.
- Move around school safely, following specific instructions (for example, one-way systems, out of bounds areas, queuing)
- Follow expectations about sneezing, coughing, tissues and disposal ('catch it, bin it, kill it') and avoiding touching your mouth, nose and eyes with hands.
- Know that they must tell an adult if they are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus.
- Follow rules about sharing any equipment or other items including drinking bottles and specific learning resources.
- Follow amended expectations about breaks or play times, including where they may or may not play.
- Understand which toilets they are able to use and what they should do to use them safely.

### **What happens if a child or a member of staff in school shows symptoms of COVID-19?**

- If a child or a staff member develops symptoms of coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to undertake a test and must self-isolate for 7 days. Other members of their household must self-isolate for 14 days.
- Children or staff showing symptoms of coronavirus will be isolated from others until they are collected.
- If the test is **negative** then the child or member of staff can return to school and the family no longer need to self-isolate.

### **What happens if a child or a member of staff in school tests positive for COVID-19?**

- If a child or member of staff tests **positive** they must self-isolate for 10 days
- The rest of their hub will also be sent home and must self-isolate for 14 days. Household members of the child or staff member must also self-isolate for 14 days.
- We will notify Public Health England's local Health Protection Team of any positive cases, and adhere to any specific advice issued
- Household members of other children in the pod do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with from that group subsequently develops symptoms.

### **What if a member of a child's family tests positive for COVID-19?**

- The child will need to self-isolate at home for 14 days along with other members of the household.
- Other children in the child's pod can continue to attend school and do not need to self-isolate unless they show signs of coronavirus.

### **Test and Trace**

- If any positive cases occur within Tweendykes Public Health England's local Health Protection Team will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools on the most appropriate action to take.
- In some cases, a larger number of other children and young people **may** be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure - perhaps the whole class or bubbles.
- Where schools are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which reduces the risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

**Is the wearing of PPE (personal, protective, equipment) recommended?**

- Children with SEND do not have to wear face coverings
- Staff will not wear PPE in classrooms, unless related to a specific pupil's needs
- PPE will be worn by staff if working outside their bubble, if they are unable to maintain social distancing.
- If a child needs intimate care from a member of staff, PPE will be worn.
- PPE will always be worn by staff if supporting a child displaying coronavirus symptoms while they are waiting to be collected from school.

**What cleaning procedures are in place?**

- Thorough daily cleaning regimes are in place in all schools using products and protocols recommended in guidance.
- On-going cleaning of surfaces, door handles, handrails, toilets etc will take place throughout the day.
- Resources and furniture which are difficult to clean effectively have been removed from rooms.

***We urge you to seek a COVID-19 test as soon as possible if your child or family member displays symptoms of coronavirus. Please do not leave your house if you have symptoms and please let us know the outcome of any tests undertaken.***

I hope you find this guidance informative and reassuring. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact school.