



# Marlow Church of England School

## COVID-19: outbreak management plan

*'The overarching objective is to maximise the number of children and young people in face-to face education or childcare and minimise any disruption, in a way that best manages the COVID-19 risk. The impacts of having missed face-to-face education during the pandemic are severe for children, young people and adults. In all cases, any benefits in managing COVID-19 risk should be weighed against any educational drawbacks and the additional measures described in this guidance should be considered only in exceptional circumstances and be time limited, to minimise disruption to face-to-face education and protect the most vulnerable..'*

(from DfE Contingency Framework: education and childcare settings February 2022)

<b>Approved by:</b>	The Governing Body	<b>Date:</b> 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2021
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	1.03.22	
<b>Next review due by:</b>	1.04.22	

# 1. Introduction

*'On 21 February the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the Government's COVID19 response. COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with, and the imperative is to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education*

*All education and childcare settings should have outbreak management plans describing what they will do if children, pupils, students or staff test positive for COVID-19, or how they would operate if they were advised to reintroduce any measures to help break chains of transmission'*

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

The daily operation of the school will be covered by the school's Covid Risk Assessment which details the baseline measures as well as what we will do if a member of the school staff or pupil tests positive for Covid 19. This outbreak management plan details measures that we will take if we face severe operational disruption to face to face education.

We will only implement some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by Buckinghamshire Council, Director 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, for example:

- a higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of staff or student absences due to COVID-19 infection
- evidence of severe disease due to COVID-19, for example if a pupil, student, child 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 staff or students within the affected group

## 2. 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, Mrs S Reynolds, will be responsible for seeking this advice, and will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687) or PHE Thames Valley Health Protection Team 0344 225 3861 or 0844 967 0083

## 3. Managing events

Parents, carers, pupils 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:

- Residential educational visits
- Open days
- Transition or taster days
- Parents coming into school
- Live performances

## 4. Testing

If advised by DPH or HPT we will introduce rapid lateral flow device (LFD) testing by some staff or pupils (by parents).

Pupils, staff and other adults with a positive test result should follow [UKHSA guidance](#) on whether to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

## 5. Face coverings

In England, face coverings are no longer required by law. In education and childcare settings, face coverings are not advised for pupils, staff and visitors in communal areas, or classrooms and teaching spaces.

If advised by DPH or HPT we may temporarily introduce the wearing of face coverings in communal areas by staff and by parents & carers whilst on the school site.

## 6. Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort. They will be a short-term measure to help break chains of an in-setting transmission or on government advice in order to suppress or manage a dangerous variant and to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS.

If recommended, we will implement the following measures:

### 6.1 Eligibility to remain in school

If attendance restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers

### 6.2 Education and support for pupils at home

All other pupils 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 pupils would receive in school, as outlined in our [Remote Education plan](#)

The school will continue to provide meals or lunch bags for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines.

These lunch bags will be available for parents to collect from the front of school.

### 6.3 Safeguarding

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

We will aim to have a trained DSL on site wherever possible.

If neither of our DSLs can be on site, they can be contacted remotely via the school office ([office@marlow-infant.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@marlow-infant.bucks.sch.uk))

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for coordinating safeguarding on site.

When vulnerable pupils are absent, we will:

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