

COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan



JULIAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Approved by: Alison Moller **Date:** 29/11/21

Last reviewed on: 22/10/21

Next review due by: December 2021

1. Introduction

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).

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, for example:

*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

The Prime Minister announced on 27 November the temporary introduction of new measures as a result of the Omicron variant. The full guidance can be found here -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1036663/Schools_guidance_update_for_Omicron_-_29_Nov.pdf

These measures are precautionary, while the variant is tracked and assessed. As a result, the government have introduced a temporary recommendation on the wearing of face coverings in schools and changes to isolation requirements for confirmed and suspected cases of the Omicron variant and their contacts. This advice remains subject to change as the situation develops.

The government do not recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles') and this means that 'bubbles' will not be reintroduced at the current time. It may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups should the situation deteriorate. Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of 'bubbles' would not be taken lightly and would need to take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education overall.

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 Executive Head will be responsible for seeking this advice, and will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687) or Lambeth Public Health.

3. 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.

4. Other measures

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/carers coming into school
- Live performances

If recommended, we will (re)introduce:

- Testing, including the use of an asymptomatic test site (ATS)
- Bubbles, to reduce mixing between groups
- Face coverings in communal areas and classrooms for staff and visitors (unless exempt)

5. Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort. If recommended, we will implement the measures in this section.

5.1 Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers

5.2 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 **Blended Learning Policy**. This is on our website.

The school will continue to provide meals or lunch parcels where possible for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines. This will be agreed with ISS.

5.3 Wraparound care

We will limit access to before and after-school activities and wraparound care during term time and the summer holidays to those that need it most.

We will communicate who will be eligible to attend once the restrictions are confirmed.

5.4 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 or deputy DSL on site wherever possible.

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site and liaise directly with the HOS for the relevant 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

5.5 Updated guidance 28/11/21

Close contacts

All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will be contacted directly and required to self-isolate immediately and asked to book a PCR test. They will be informed by the local health protection team or NHS Test and Trace if they fall into this category and provided details about self-isolation.

Face coverings

In primary schools, it is recommended that face coverings should be worn by staff and adults (including visitors) when moving around in corridors and communal areas. Health advice continues to be that children in primary schools should not be asked to wear face coverings.

Staff meetings

Staff meetings will be held virtually where possible as a precautionary measure

Performances

We will continue to share performances virtually. In the case of the Christmas performances these will be professionally filmed and shared with parents/carers at a later date.

Visitors

We will continue to restrict the number of visitors on site and all meetings should take place virtually where possible.

Assemblies

As of September 2021, a limited number of assemblies were re-introduced. Where possible we hope to continue with this arrangement. However, if we see a sharp rise in cases, or the introduction of the omicron variant into the school population we will re consider this approach alongside the reintroduction of “bubbles”.