

St Bede's Catholic Middle School COVID Outbreak Plan

Introduction

This plan is based on the contingency framework for managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 and the school's operational guidance, published by the Department for Education (DfE). The school 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 students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely within a 10-day period
- 10% of students 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, the school will review the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures already in place. The school will also seek public health advice from a director of public health or health protection team. The Principal (or a delegated nominated member of staff) will be responsible for seeking this advice, and will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline.

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 director of public health (DsPH) to discuss any further support we need to do this. If we reintroduce on-site asymptomatic testing this will take place in the Sports Hall during school hours.

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/or:

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.

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If recommended, we will limit:

- Residential educational visits
- Open days
- Transition or taster days
- Parents coming into school
- Live performances
- If recommended, we will reintroduce:
 - Staggered start and end to school day
 - Lunch time arrangements to reduce mixing between groups
 - Virtual Collective Worship events

Attendance Restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort. 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 policy. 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.

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. If our DSL (or deputy) can't be on site, they can be contacted remotely. On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site. When vulnerable students 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