



COVID-19: Outbreak Management Plan

Whinney Banks Primary School

Approved by:	Mrs S Thorpe	Date: 01-09-2021
Last reviewed on:	01-09-2021	
Next review due by:	As required	

1.Introduction

The Department for Education published a [Contingency framework for education and childcare settings](#) in June and this describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 (including responding to variants of concern) in education and childcare settings, covering:

- the types of measures that settings should be prepared for
- who can recommend these measures and where
- when measures should be lifted
- how decisions are made.
-

The government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to *operate as normally as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic*.

Measures affecting education and childcare may be necessary in some circumstances, for example:

- *to help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within a setting*
- *if there is extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community and other measures have failed to reduce transmission*
- *as part of a package of measures responding to a Variant of Concern (VoC)*

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

2. 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.

Shielding is currently paused. In the event of a major outbreak or VoC that poses a significant risk to individuals on the shielded patient list (SPL), ministers can agree to reintroduce shielding. Shielding would be considered in addition to other measures to address the residual risk to people on the SPL, once the wider interventions are considered.

Shielding can only be reintroduced by national government.

Whinney Banks Primary School will identify any pupils or staff who are on a Shielded Patient List in the instance of this being reintroduced and supporting accordingly.

3. Other measures

If recommended, we will limit:

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

4. Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions should only ever be considered in extreme circumstances and as a last resort. If attendance restrictions are advised across an area, the government will publish detailed operational guidance for settings.

The impacts of having missed education during the pandemic are severe for children, young people and adults. In all cases, any benefits in managing transmission should be weighed against any educational drawbacks.

Decision-makers should keep all measures under regular review, and lift them as soon as the evidence supports doing so.

Measures affecting education and childcare settings across an area should not be considered in isolation, but as part of a broader package of measures.

Where measures include attendance restrictions, the Department for Education (DfE) may advise on any groups that should be prioritised.

4.1 Eligibility to remain in school

In the first instance, we may stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers
- Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils

If further restrictions are recommended, we may stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers

4.2 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 Learning Policy.

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

4.3 After School Activities

We will limit access to before and after-school activities 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.

4.4 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.

There should be no change to local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, which remain the responsibility of the 3 safeguarding partners:

- local authorities
- clinical commissioning groups
- chief officers of police

If attendance restrictions are needed in any education or childcare setting, the DFE would expect all local safeguarding partners to be vigilant and responsive to all safeguarding threats with the aim of keeping vulnerable children and young people safe, particularly as more children and young people will be learning remotely.

Other measures

Local authorities, directors of public health (DsPH) and PHE health protection teams (HPTs) may recommend limiting:

- residential educational visits
- open days
- transition or taster days
- parental attendance in settings
- performances in settings

This may apply to one setting, a cluster of settings, or across an entire area.

Whinney Banks Primary School will follow any national recommendations in regard to these precautions in conjunction with guidance from the Middlesbrough Public Health and Health & Safety teams. We will forewarn all families that all such activity is subject to current guidance that may change and keep them updated with as much notice as possible.

Education workforce

If restrictions on child, pupil and student attendance are needed, Whinney Banks Primary School is best placed to determine the workforce required onsite and if it is appropriate for some staff to work remotely. We will liaise with Middlesbrough Council Health & Safety team and follow North Yorkshire's HR guidance.

The governors of Whinney Banks Primary School have regard to the guidance on clinically extremely vulnerable people.

We will continue to implement the system of controls set out in the COVID-19 coronavirus operational guidance. We will explain to staff the measures they are putting in place to reduce risks to staff, including how these protective measures have been reviewed as part of an updated workplace risk assessment.

Safeguarding and designated safeguarding leads

There should be no change to local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, which remain the responsibility of the 3 safeguarding partners:

- local authorities
- clinical commissioning groups
- chief officers of police

If attendance restrictions are needed in any education or childcare setting, the DFE would expect all local safeguarding partners to be vigilant and responsive to all safeguarding threats with the aim of keeping vulnerable children and young people safe, particularly as more children and young people will be learning remotely.

If attendance restrictions were needed, Whinney Banks Primary School will continue to have regard to all statutory safeguarding guidance that applies to them, including:

- [Keeping children safe in education](#)
- [Working together to safeguard children](#)
- [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) framework](#) - read alongside [Early years foundation stage: coronavirus disapplication's](#)

Vulnerable children and young people

Where vulnerable children and young people are absent, Whinney Banks Primary School will:

- follow up with the parent or carer, working with the local authority and social worker (where applicable), to explore the reason for absence and discuss their concerns
- encourage the child or young person to attend educational provision, working with the local authority and social worker (where applicable), particularly where the social worker and the Virtual School Head (where applicable) agrees that the child or young person's attendance would be appropriate
- focus the discussions on the welfare of the child or young person and ensuring that the child or young person is able to access appropriate education and support while they are at home
- have in place procedures to maintain contact, ensure they are able to access remote education support, as required, and regularly check if they are doing so

If Whinney Banks Primary School has to temporarily stop onsite provision on public health advice, we would discuss alternative arrangements for vulnerable children and young people with the local authority.

School meals

Whinney Banks Primary School will provide meal options for all pupils who are in school. Meals should be available free of charge to all Key Stage 1 pupils and pupils who meet the benefits-related free school meals eligibility criteria.

Whinney Banks Primary School will also continue to provide free school meals support in the form of meals or lunch parcels for pupils who are eligible for benefits related free school meals and who are not attending school because they:

- are self-isolating
- have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves
- are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19

Educational visits

In the event of restricted attendance being imposed at Whinney Banks Primary School, this will be reflected in the Educational Visits element of our wider risk assessment and we would consider carefully if educational visits were still appropriate and safe.

We would consult the health and safety guidance on educational visits when considering visits.

In the circumstance of having reduced numbers on site due to national restrictions, we anticipate that it would be highly unlikely that any educational visits would take place.

The Department for Education published a [Contingency framework for education and childcare settings](#) in June and this describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 (including responding to variants of concern) in education and childcare settings, covering:

- the types of measures that settings should be prepared for
- who can recommend these measures and where
- when measures should be lifted
- how decisions are made

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