



# Nexus Education Schools Trust

## COVID-19: Outbreak Management Plan

**Approved by:** NEST Central Team **Date:** July 2021

**Last reviewed on:** 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – version 3

**Next review due by:** Following changes to Government Guidance.

# 1. Introduction

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.

All education and childcare settings should have outbreak management plans (sometimes called contingency plans) outlining how they would operate if any of the measures described in this document were recommended for their setting or area. This includes how they would ensure every pupil receives the quantity and quality of education and care to which they are normally entitled.

This plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19 and the [schools operational guidance from step 4](#), 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 the Local Authority (LA), Directors of Public Health (DsPH), UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) 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

## **Primary schools:**

- 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

## **Additional Provision:**

- There are 2 positive cases among pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely 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

# 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 (see NEST Covid risk assessment September 2021). We will consider increasing the number of activities that take place outside, if possible. One-off extended enhanced cleaning focusing on touch points and any shared equipment will be put in place.

We will also seek public health advice from a director of public health or health protection team. The Headteacher will be responsible for seeking this advice and will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687). NEST central team will also contact the Local Authority on the school's behalf. Please contact Lisa Bromley [lbromley@nestschools.org](mailto:lbromley@nestschools.org)

## **Other measures**

Parents, carers, pupils and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of control measures. This will be done via email/letters sent home with pupils once a decision has been made.

If recommended, we will limit:

- Residential educational visits – we have considered the financial impact of limiting a residential visit and the protection needed for this.
- Open days – we will move to remote open days for potential parents and carers.
- Transition or taster days
- Parents and carers coming into school - we will use remote parent/carers consultations

- › Live performances

If recommended, we will reintroduce:

- › Bubbles, to reduce mixing between groups. Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of 'bubbles' will not be taken lightly and will take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education.
- › Face coverings in communal areas and classrooms for staff and visitors (unless exempt)
- › Staggered start and end times to the school day, ensuring each pupil receives the quantity and quality of education to which they are normally entitled.
- › Testing, if recommended, we will work to increase the use of home testing by staff.

## 4. Attendance restrictions

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

### 4.1 Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- › Vulnerable pupils
- › Children of critical workers

Additional Provision will, if possible, continue to allow all children or pupils to attend full-time.

- › If Additional Provision encounters circumstances where they cannot provide their usual interventions and provision at adequate staffing ratios, or with staff with appropriate specialist training they will seek to resume as close as possible to full-time provision, as soon as possible.
- › Additional Provision will, if needed, remain in line with the equivalent age groups in mainstream schools.

### 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 each school's remote learning plan.

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

### 4.4 Safeguarding

We will review the NEST Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy to make sure it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective.

We will aim to have a trained Dedicated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or deputy DSL on site wherever possible. We will ensure remote access to a DSL if needed.

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site and work with the NEST Central Team.

DSLs and Deputy DSLs are named on each school's website and can be contacted through the school office.

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.