



# NORTHSIDE Primary School

## Coronavirus (COVID-19): Contingency Plan

Last review: July 21

Ratified: July 21

Review: October 21

### Rationale

If our local area sees an extremely high prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection rates and existing measures in our community have failed to reduce this, the appropriate authorities will decide which additional measures to implement to help contain the spread. These measures may involve implementing a number of restrictions, which could include the partial closure of schools and childcare settings in our area. Measures may also be necessary to help minimise the impact from new coronavirus variants.

This document outlines how the school will operate if further restrictions are implemented. The school will work closely with the local health protection team (HPT) and implement provisions as advised by the team.

This is a live document that will be reviewed by the headteacher, in conjunction with other key stakeholders, as and when the situation develops.

### Key Principles

This plan has been created in line with the latest government advice regarding contingency planning as set out in the DfE's 'COVID-19 Contingency Framework: Education and childcare' and 'Schools coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance' documents. The government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to stay open as much as possible during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Any restrictions on education would only be as a last resort and should only be initiated following a ministerial decision on a case-by-case basis.

We will ensure this plan is updated in line with national government guidelines regarding the operation of schools during local lockdowns.

### Northside Values

<b>RESPECT</b>	to value our needs, beliefs and each other
<b>PRIDE</b>	to have confidence in our abilities and celebrate success
<b>INCLUSION</b>	to work together with families and our diverse community to become life-long learners
<b>CHALLENGE</b>	to have high expectations of ourselves so we achieve our best
<b>CREATIVITY</b>	to creatively express our feelings and ideas
<b>RESILIENCE</b>	to develop life skills so we fulfil our potential

### UN Rights of the Child:

Article 28 (right to education) Every child has the right to an education.

## **In Practice**

### **Restrictions to Attendance**

The government has advised that all schools should continue to operate as normal and that all pupils should attend school unless required to self-isolate.

The contingency framework is designed to act as a containment measure where:

- There is extremely high prevalence of coronavirus.
- Other measures have already been implemented.
- There is a need to minimise the impact from a new coronavirus variant.

Restrictive measures, of the kind set out in the contingency framework, must not be implemented by schools without the explicit agreement of the DfE.

Restricting attendance in any form will only be used as a last resort, initiated following a ministerial decision. Where restrictions to attendance are implemented following government advice, they will be kept to a minimum, allowing for the maximum number of pupils to attend education; however, in all circumstances, priority will be given to vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers to attend full time.

As part of their outbreak management responsibilities, LAs (Local Authorities), Directors of Public Health and HPTs may advise individual settings or a cluster of closely linked settings to limit attendance in one of the ways described in this section.

Where LAs judge that wider containment action is needed and wish to limit attendance within an area, they should work with their Regional Partnership Team to escalate a proposal to the central Local Action Committee command structure.

If the contingency framework is implemented, the setting will continue to allow all children to attend on-site provision. Where advised by the DfE, in line with the available evidence, the setting will only allow the on-site attendance of vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. The setting will only limit attendance if it is directed to do so by the DfE. If attendance is limited, remote learning will be delivered to children who remain at home, in line with the Pupil Remote Learning Policy.

### **Infection Prevention and Control**

The school's Infection Control Policy will continue to be adhered to – this policy meets the requirements set out in the DfE's system of controls.

Any member of the school community who displays symptoms of coronavirus will be required to self-isolate and encouraged to get a test. Tests can be booked online or ordered by telephone via NHS 119. Critical workers, including school staff, have priority access to testing.

All schools are currently being provided with rapid-result testing kits, which include PPE, to identify asymptomatic cases of coronavirus. If a variant of coronavirus classed as a variant of concern (VoC) is identified within the school's geographical area, the school will partake in targeted testing by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to help suppress and control any possible new cases. The school will also adhere to advice from Directors of Public Health in relation to the temporary reintroduction of face coverings.

If a pupil develops symptoms of coronavirus while on site, they will be taken to a designated isolation area while they wait to be collected. If the supervising member of staff is unable to maintain social distancing, e.g. due to the pupil's age or needs, they will wear PPE. After the pupil has left the premises, any areas they were in will be cleaned. The pupil's parents will be encouraged to get their child tested as soon as possible. The pupil will be required to self-isolate for at least 10 days – remote education will be arranged for them immediately.

If a staff member develops symptoms while on site, they will be directed to go home immediately to self-isolate and to get a test. Cover arrangements will be put in place.

Any staff members or pupils who have been in close contact with a symptomatic individual do not need to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves or the individual subsequently tests positive.

If an individual tests positive, the school will contact the DfE Helpline on 0800 046 8687 and select Option 1, where a team of NHS advisers will decide what action is needed based on the latest public health advice. The school will follow the expert advice, which could include working with the local HPT if the situation is escalated by the advisers. The individual's close contacts at school will be sent home to self-isolate for 10 days and encouraged to get a test. If more individuals test positive, the school will follow advice from the local HPT, which may include requiring more people to self-isolate.

### **Teaching and Learning**

If restrictions to on-site education are required, the school will offer immediate access to high-quality remote education for all pupils who are required to remain at home. All remote learning will be delivered in line with the school's Pupil Remote Learning Policy.

In exceptional circumstances, the school may reduce its curriculum offering to enable pupils to cope with the workload – the headteacher will assess this need, keeping pupils' best interests in mind, and will not take the decision lightly.

### **Returning to School**

The headteacher will work with the LA to ensure pupils only return to school when it is safe for them to do so. Prior to the return of more pupils and staff, all relevant risk assessments will be reviewed. After a period of self-isolation, or the relaxation of restrictions, the headteacher will inform parents when their child will return to school.

### **Safeguarding**

Ensuring safeguarding arrangements remain effective during periods of restricted attendance is a key priority. Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy has been updated to include provisions for keeping pupils safe during the coronavirus pandemic, both at home and in school – we will continue to follow these procedures for pupils who remain at home, where appropriate, until all pupils are able to return to school.

We will continue to ensure that:

- The best interests of pupils always come first.
- If anyone in the school has a safeguarding concern about a pupil, they act immediately.
- A DSL or deputy DSL is always available.
- Pupils who remain at home are protected when they are online.

A trained DSL or deputy will remain on-site where possible.

### **Wraparound Care**

The school's wraparound care (both indoor and outdoor provision) will be provided to all pupils; however, where restrictions are required, wraparound care will only be provided on-site to pupils who are eligible to attend school full time.

### **Food Provision**

We will provide meal options for all pupils who are attending school.

We will provide FSM or food parcels to eligible pupils who are not attending school, where they:

- Are self-isolating.

- Have had symptoms or have tested positive.
- Are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus.
- Are not attending due to the implementation of local restrictions advised by the government.

The school catering team will work with our food providers to prepare meals or food parcels, for collection or delivery, to eligible children during their time at home.

### Communication

The school will communicate its plan for addressing any imposed restrictions with parents, including in relation to:

- Opening arrangements.
- Access for specific targeted groups where applicable, vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers.
- Any reviews of the school's protective measures as part of our risk assessments.
- The arrangements for remote working.

All relevant stakeholders will be kept up-to-date with the circumstances of any imposed restrictions and how these affect the school as the situation develops.

