



## Walter Infant school and Nursery OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2021 22

*“To be the best I can be”*

*Walter Infant School and Nursery is an equitable, safe, secure and happy place to learn; our children grow as individuals in a stimulating and exciting environment which values respect, empathy, kindness, honesty and resilience.*

**Rationale:** Walter Infant School and Nursery is a larger than average three form entry infant school with a 52 place nursery; we consider ourselves to be a **“BIG School for LITTLE PEOPLE”**. We have designed a **‘BIG’ curriculum** to excite, inspire and foster a desire to learn; we want our children to know more about the world around them and to be happy, confident and successful.

**Introduction and Context:** After the COVID 19 Pandemic beginning in January 2020, resulting in the first school closure and national lockdown, we have learned a lot about how to manage an outbreak, should another pandemic or epidemic arise again in the future, especially as we reduce the restrictions that have been in place on our return to school in September 2021.

We have a risk assessment on our school website for the precautions that have been put in place to manage the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic and we will apply certain measures from this risk assessment should we need to manage a further outbreak. It is a requisite from Wokingham Borough Council that an Outbreak Management Plan is in place and we have followed the guidelines to inform this plan.

**The current definition from Wokingham Borough Council (07/09/2021) of an outbreak of COVID 19 is:**

- **An outbreak is 5 children, pupils or staff within a 10 day period who have close contact**
- **10% of community who may have mixed closely e.g. activity group, sports team, form group, after school club**

The outbreak could occur either on the school's site or in relation to outbreaks within the local community or wider geographical area, for example, an educational trip or transition day that involved mixed year groups.

**Additional information to inform if there is an outbreak in the context of a school or other educational setting from GOV.UK is:**

- A 'confirmed case' of COVID-19 refers to someone who has a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.
- An 'outbreak' is defined by several confirmed cases having COVID-19, symptoms in which there is also an association of time, place and/ or contact between them within 14 days.

[Contingency framework: education and childcare settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings)

This framework is separate to the processes in place for managing outbreaks and operational challenges. Any restrictions on education are always a last resort and should only be initiated following a decision by Department for Education/Public Health/Local Authority.

Any measures will be kept under review and should be lifted as soon as the public health and scientific advice says it is appropriate to do so.

Schools should consider procedures and other policy documents that may be related to this guidance such as:

- Back to School Plans and communication
- Risk Assessments – whole school and individual staff
- Online learning and remote learning provision
- Updated behaviour and safeguarding policies.
- Attendance and Sickness absence – ref clinically Extremely vulnerable staff and pupils and those who may not be able to attend due to reasonable concerns.

**Definition of outbreak in context of school or other educational setting:**

- A 'confirmed case' of COVID-19 refers to someone who has a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.
- An 'outbreak' is defined by several confirmed cases having COVID-19, symptoms in which there is also an association of time, place and/ or contact between them within 14 days.

If required, we will call the dedicated advice service who will escalate the issue to our local health protection team where necessary and advise if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of your outbreak management plan. You can reach them by calling the **DfE helpline on 0800 046 8687** and selecting option 1 for advice on the action to take in response to a positive case.

### **From September 1<sup>st</sup> 2021:**

- **Schools will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. As with any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will identify close contacts of positive cases.**
- **Face coverings will no longer be required for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.**
- **Children under 18 will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive Covid 19 case. Instead, they will be encouraged to take a PCR test.**

### **First Priority for Walter Infant school and Nursery**

Our first priority at Walter Infant School and Nursery is the safety and well-being of our 304 children, closely followed by our dedicated staff of 50+ and everyone's families and our stakeholders. Therefore we will never put measures in place that will be detrimental to the health, safety and well-being of others and will take actions that may cause difficulties and inconvenience, for the good of the health, safety and well-being of all.

[Schools coronavirus \(COVID-19\) operational guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/schools-coronavirus-covid-19-operational-guidance)

### **From Sept 2021 planning for School Operations all risk assessments and arrangements to control the spread of coronavirus should ensure:**

1. Good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes ~ all high touch points will continue to be cleaned more often and more thoroughly
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated ~ new skylights to be fitted in magpie Class during October halfterm
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.
5. *While not a legal requirement the government has strongly recommended that face coverings are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may meet people you that you don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school or college.*

## **Procedures in place on our Risk Assessment to prevent the spread of COVID 19 at Walter Infant school and Nursery**

- Anyone feeling unwell with COVID 19 symptoms or has someone in their household who is unwell informed not to attend school.
- Frequent handwashing promoted especially before snack
- Vigilance before eating with handwashing, increased handwashing posters
- Hand sanitiser available in classrooms and shared spaces at access and egress points.
- Frequent cleaning of surfaces that pupils touch especially during break times
- Children taught to “Catch-it, Bin-it, Kill-it”
- Children taught to sneeze or cough into their elbows
- Bins for tissues emptied during the day into black bags and then placed in the outside bins: The outside bins are emptied on a Monday so 72 hours will pass before collection
- Staff, parents and visitors informed of the measures in place to reduce transmission: Be Cautious, Be Careful, Be Kind
- High touch points identified with stickers
- Track and Trace QR codes displayed
- We are encouraging all members of staff to take twice weekly lateral flow tests and to report to school and Gov.UK
- We will request PCR tests for staff following a positive test result for a child or close contact
- Classrooms will be well ventilated as far as is possible to prevent infection
- No small spaces used for group work
- PPE equipment in use for staff supervising children preventing with symptoms and for first aid.
- We will encourage every stake holder to be vigilant; please do not come into school if you feel you could be infected message shared with all stakeholders via email and Friday Flyer

### **In addition to these measures we will:**

- Report number of opt-outs to WBC
- Use broadest symptom list, not just the basic symptom list.
- Follow all guidance from WBC, WHO, PHE and GOV.UK
- Share Outbreak Management Plan widely with staff team and governors
- Respect other people’s approaches, e.g. continuing to wear a face mask



Early on in the pandemic, the NHS promoted awareness of three main symptoms of COVID-19, sometimes referred to as the 'classic triad':

- Persistent cough
- High temperature (fever) 37.8C or greater
- Loss of smell (anosmia)

Now there are six clusters of symptoms of COVID 19 which are as follows:

1 (**'flu-like' with no fever**): Headache, loss of smell, muscle pains, cough, sore throat, chest pain, no fever.

2 (**'flu-like' with fever**): Headache, loss of smell, cough, sore throat, hoarseness, fever, loss of appetite.

3 (**gastrointestinal**): Headache, loss of smell, loss of appetite, diarrhoea, sore throat, chest pain, no cough.

4 (**severe level one, fatigue**): Headache, loss of smell, cough, fever, hoarseness, chest pain, fatigue.

5 (**severe level two, confusion**): Headache, loss of smell, loss of appetite, cough, fever, hoarseness, sore throat, chest pain, fatigue, confusion, muscle pain.

6 (**severe level three, abdominal and respiratory**): Headache, loss of smell, loss of appetite, cough, fever, hoarseness, sore throat, chest pain, fatigue, confusion, muscle pain, shortness of breath, diarrhoea, abdominal pain.

For further information <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/health/public-health-campaigns/staying-safe-during-covid/>

