

BENINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN – September 2021

This outbreak management plan is written based on the guidance provided by the government in the latest version of the [contingency framework](#) and will be reviewed as this guidance is updated.

Principles

- Our overarching objective is to maximise the number of children and young people in face-to face education or childcare and minimise any disruption, in a way that best manages the COVID-19 risk.
- The impacts of having missed face-to-face education during the pandemic are severe for children, young people and adults. In all cases, any benefits in managing transmission will be weighed against any educational drawbacks.
- We will endeavour to keep any measures in education and childcare to the minimum number of settings or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible.
- We will keep all measures under regular review and lift them as soon as the evidence supports doing so.
- Attendance restrictions will only ever be considered as a last resort.

Stage 1 – Ongoing risk assessment & control measures

Our COVID risk assessment can be found on our website and describes the ongoing control measures we have in place to reduce risks related to COVID, including:

- individual risk factors meaning staff / pupils more vulnerable to COVID-19
- school occupants coming into contact with those with COVID-19 symptoms
- general transmission of COVID-19
- ineffective hygiene protocols
- ineffective cleaning
- minimising contact and maintenance of social distancing
- access to & egress from site
- contact points & equipment use
- proximity of pupils & staff
- shared areas use / lunchtimes
- transport / travel off site
- contractors
- provision of first aid
- provision of personal care
- emergency procedures (fire alarm activations etc)
- deliveries & waste collection
- premises safety
- lack of awareness of control measures
- staffing levels

This risk assessment has been reviewed in the light of the latest move to Step 4 in the government roadmap to lifting restrictions related to the pandemic.

We will continue to review based on ongoing advice from the Local Health Protection (LPH) team and Department for Education (DfE).

Stage 2 – Identification of outbreak

We have considered the need to take extra action if the number of positive cases substantially increases – this could indicate that an outbreak is happening.

An outbreak is likely to be identified whenever one of these thresholds is reached first:

- 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; or
- 10% of children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

Identifying a group that is likely to have mixed closely will be different for each setting. Below are some examples.

- a childminder minding children, including their own
- staff and children taking part in the same activity session together
- a class or intervention group
- a friendship group mixing at breaktimes
- a sports team
- a group in an after-school activity
- ASC

If we believe we have met either of these thresholds, we will also seek advice from the Local Public Health Team (LPH) and/or DfE about extra action that should be taken to manage the outbreak.

We will then review and potentially reinforce our control measures in discussion with the LPH/DfE, including:

- testing
- face coverings
- shielding
- limiting other activities e.g. residential educational visits; open days; transition or taster days; parental attendance in settings; live performances in settings

In addition, we will also seek advice from the Local Public Health Team and/or DfE if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital with COVID-19. Hospitalisation could indicate increased severity of illness or a new variant of concern. We will then be offered public health support in managing risk assessments and communicating with staff and parents.

Stage 3 – Confirmed outbreak

In exceptional circumstances, we may be advised by LPH/DfE to implement attendance restrictions as an exceptional short-term measure and a last resort:

- across an area, on government advice to suppress or manage a dangerous variant and to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS.
- for individual settings, on public health advice in extreme cases where other recommended measures have not broken chains of in-setting transmission

In all circumstances, the priority will continue to be given to vulnerable children and young people and children of critical workers to attend to their normal timetables.

Where measures include attendance restrictions, we may be advised by the DfE on any other groups that should be prioritised.

Where we are advised, temporarily, to limit attendance, we will ensure that high-quality remote education is provided to all pupils not attending.

In these exceptional circumstances, we will follow the latest guidance within the [contingency framework](#) including:

- remote education
- education workforce

- safeguarding issues
- vulnerable children and young people
- transport
- school & FE meals
- educational visits