

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

RISK ASSESSMENT – COVID19

Premises: St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	Work activity: Reopening of school for all pupils and staff (January 2022)
Assessors: Clare Redmond	Date: 04/01/2022
Employees considered: Yes	Non-employees affected: Yes
Out of hours: Yes	Vulnerable persons: Staff / Pupils / Visitors/Wider community

The latest scientific advice and knowledge is that:

- Cases of the Omicron variant of Covid are rising.
- It is not yet clear whether Omicron is more transmissible or whether it causes more or less disease compared to infections with other variants including Delta
- Children and Young People can carry the disease, even if they do so asymptotically
- Adults who have been double vaccinated (including booster jabs) can still catch the virus
- Preliminary evidence suggests that there is an increased risk of re-infection with Omicron, as compared to other variants of concern

Hazards/Risks:

1. Number of pupils/staff in a class/hall/corridors etc. with no social distancing including contact points – surfaces, books, stationery etc.
2. Pupils/ staff become unwell with virus during school day.
3. Behaviour of small amount of pupils who may need positive handling
4. Tending to pupils, if they have intimate care needs.
5. Staff and pupils who are clinically vulnerable or at risk of spreading the virus to vulnerable people at home
6. Stress and anxiety having a negative impact on staff and pupils mental well-being.
7. Indoor sports including competitions and contact sport
8. Indoor performances including assemblies and acts of worship
9. Educational day visits and domestic residentials
10. Visitors/parents coming on-site and spreading infection

This document must be read in conjunction with the school's outbreak management plan which can also be found on our website.

Control measures:

<p>1. We will continue to promote good hygiene for everyone, maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, keep occupied spaces well ventilated, and follow public health advice on testing and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19. Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned often during the day (by school staff) using standard products such as detergents and bleach. Particular attention will be paid to surfaces that the children have touched, such as toys, books, desks, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters. Frequent handwashing, using soap and water and following Government guidelines will take place during the school day. Each classroom has a CO2 monitor to monitor air quality. Pupils will be supervised to ensure good hand hygiene and frequently reminded how to wash hands. Staff will ensure that toilets do not become crowded by limiting the number of children using the toilet facilities at one time. Where possible, all spaces will be well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows). We will also continue with our strong messaging about signs and symptoms, isolation advice, to support prompt isolation of suspected cases. We will continue to encourage vaccination/booster uptake for eligible staff. Primary school children are not required to wear face coverings/masks and current school policy is that they should not.</p>
<p>2. If a pupil or staff member becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), the person will be isolated in a designated room that is away from all other pupils and staff until they are able to be collected from school. It will be possible to access this room directly from the outside. A separate bathroom has been allocated for use by any person displaying symptoms of COVID-19. SLT must be informed immediately if isolation has been deemed necessary for any individual. PPE should be worn by staff caring for the individual while they await collection and a distance of 2 metres maintained if possible. Anyone who has helped an individual with COVID-19 symptoms should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact. The affected room should be cleaned using normal household disinfectant once the unwell individual has left. Deep cleaning should only happen with appropriate PPE being worn. Individuals being sent home from school after displaying symptoms of COVID-19 will be advised to book a PCR test and self isolate until they receive the results. All staff and pupils attending school will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus and they should be encouraged to request one. All members of the school community will be made aware that if they display any symptoms of COVID-19, they will not be able to attend school. Following a negative test, individuals can return to their setting. If the individual should test positive for coronavirus, the rest of their group will be informed immediately and encouraged to get a test if they display any symptoms. Positive tests are reported to DfE/Public Health England.</p>
<p>3. Schools to be calm and disciplined environments, where everyone follows the rules. This is even more important in this current climate. Individual risk assessments will be carried out for any child who has needed restraining in the past or has exhibited challenging behaviour. If they are too great a risk, advice will be sought from the LA. Any child who needs restraining may be sent home. PPE will be available for staff who need to positively handle children. The school's behaviour policy has been updated to reflect the new protective measures, rules and routines. Parents will be informed of the expectations regarding behaviour and the consequences of the updated policy not being followed.</p>
<p>4. PPE will be issued to staff who need to tend to intimate care needs and for those who are dealing with illness in pupils or in staff. PPE will consist of aprons / gloves / face masks.</p>
<p>5. Government guidance says that all staff and pupils including those who are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) should attend unless they're self isolating or have been advised not to by their GP or clinician. However, CEV staff/pupils will be supported to take extra precautions through individual risk assessments. Those self-isolating must not attend school.</p>
<p>6. We have systems in place, including trained staff to identify children and staff who may be suffering from trauma, stress and anxiety. We have access to external agencies and aim to support those identified with a range of strategies including (but not limited to) 1:1 conversations, counselling and therapy where appropriate. Staff will be reminded of 'Education Support' – a charity providing mental health and wellbeing support services for all staff working in education (free and confidential helpline: 08000 562 561) Individual risk assessments will be carried out for any staff identified as more vulnerable e.g pregnant, underlying health issues etc.</p>
<p>7. Outdoor sport will be prioritised where possible but when it's not, we will use large indoor spaces with sufficient ventilation. Government guidance will be consulted when planning for team sports</p>
<p>8. Any external providers/visitors will be requested to read relevant guidance and put appropriate health and safety measures in place. Spaces will be well ventilated. If parents/carers are in attendance they will be asked to wear a mask/face covering. Assemblies and gatherings will also be restricted to one year group at a time.</p>
<p>9. A separate risk assessment for each educational visit will be carried out to determine whether or not it is safe to go ahead.</p>
<p>10. Visitors to school will be restricted and all will be asked to wear a face mask coming onto site – including parents visiting the Office. Face to face meetings with parents are suspended unless for SENd or safeguarding purposes. All communication should be via telephone or email.</p>
<p>Do these suffice: YES/NO/PARTIALLY (All in line wth government guidance but these are unprecedented times therefore we cannot predict the outcome of new strands of the virus)</p>

Do specific Regulations apply? If so, what are they?
The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
Are they being applied? YES /NO/PARTIALLY

Further reading/controls required:	
contingency framework for managing local outbreaks	
schools operational guidance , provided by the Department for Education (DfE).	
COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection	
Review date: This document will be reviewed March 2022 and/or in line with any new guidance or local outbreak	
Signed: C Redmond	Date: 04/01/2022