

COVID-19: outbreak management plan

Darrick Wood School



Approved by:	Dr M J Airey	Date: 16/12/21
Last reviewed on:	16/12/21	
Next review due by:	04/01/22	

Contents

1. Introduction	2
2. Seeking public health advice	2
3. Testing	3
4. Face coverings	3
5. Other measures	3
6. Attendance restrictions	4

1. Introduction

This plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19 and the [schools operational guidance](#), published 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 our 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:

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the School. Actions will be considered when either of the following thresholds are met:
 - There are 5 positive cases among students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely within a 10-day period
 - 10% of students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive 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.

We will also seek public health advice from a director of public health or health protection team. The Head Teacher (or one of the deputy head teachers in the event of the Head Teacher being absent) will be responsible for seeking this advice, and will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687), and sending the following completed table by email to:

SPOC.covid@bromley.gov.uk and Covid19.educationqueries@bromley.gov.uk

Information required	Response
Name of establishment	Darrick Wood School
Number adult cases	
Number child cases	
Date of first positive test taken	
Date of most recent positive result	
Which year group/s	

Do any of the following apply:	
EHCP	
CIN	
CP	
CLA	
If you would you like advice or support from Bromley Public Health, please indicate here with your question/request	
Have you contacted LCRC / DfE helpline?	

3. Testing

If recommended, we will consider increasing the use of home testing by students and staff. If it is advised that we reintroduce an asymptomatic testing site (ATS) at our school, we will consult with the director of public health (DsPH) to discuss any further support we need to do this.

If we did need to reintroduce on-site asymptomatic testing:

- The testing would take place in a suitably large venue (e.g. Main Hall or Dining Hall 2)
- Additional staff and volunteers would be needed to be arranged. These might not be available immediately although we do have staff in house also who would need to be re-deployed during the testing and cover found for their usual role in school
- Those most likely to be affected by the outbreak would be tested (e.g. same half or whole year group). Testing the whole school, based on how the ATS has worked previously, would take up to three days.

4. Face coverings

Students and staff are still required to bring a face mask to school daily. This is in case there is an urgent need to wear them in school. The School keeps a stock of spare single use masks for those who do not have them.

If recommended, students, staff and visitors who are not exempt from wearing a face covering:

- Will be asked to keep on or put on a face covering when arriving at school and moving around indoors in places where social distancing is difficult to maintain, such as in communal areas (e.g. corridors and stairwells, queues for the serveries, toilets).

In liaison with public health and only as a next necessary step will we move to the wearing of a face covering in classrooms where social distancing cannot be maintained. Face coverings will not be worn where this would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity (e.g. in PE or Dance).

5. Other measures

Parents, carers, students and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of additional control measures. This will be done by email to parents/carers and by Form Tutors and to students once a decision has been made.

If recommended, we will limit:

- Residential educational visits
- Open days
- Transition or taster days

- › Parents coming into school
- › Live performances

If recommended, we will reintroduce:

- › Bubbles, to reduce mixing between groups during social times
- › Staggered start and end times to the school day

6. Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort or where health and safety is compromised (e.g. unsustainable staff absence). If recommended, we will implement the measures in this section.

6.1 Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- › Vulnerable students and children of critical workers

6.2 Education and support for students at home

Continued attendance at school by all year groups is a priority but where this is no longer possible due to a local outbreak the School will quickly establish home learning for those unable to attend. Staff and students now have considerable expertise in the use of Microsoft Teams for this purpose. There will be a range of home learning opportunities available for students on Teams, including synchronous and asynchronous teaching. The School will communicate its plans for home learning with all staff, students and parents/carers and this will follow the Home Learning Policy of the School, [as published on the website](#). Our aim will be to deliver the highest quality and quantity of education possible whilst students are at home.

The School will provide meals for eligible students while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines. These will be in the form of supermarket vouchers.

6.3 Safeguarding

In the event of a local outbreak, in accordance with the framework, there would be no change to local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, which would remain the responsibility of the three safeguarding partners:

- local authorities
- clinical commissioning groups
- chief officers of police

However, we will review our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy to make sure it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective. Local safeguarding partners would continue to be vigilant and responsive to all safeguarding threats with the aim of keeping vulnerable children and young people safe, particularly as more children and young people will be home learning. Whenever children are on site, a safeguarding lead will be on site also. In the unlikely event that our DSL (or deputies) cannot be on site, they can be contacted remotely by email.

When vulnerable students are absent, we will:

- › follow up with the parent/carer, working with the local authority and social worker (where applicable), to explore the reason for absence and discuss their concerns.
- › encourage the student to attend on site provision, working with the local authority and social worker (where applicable), particularly where the social worker and the Virtual School Head (where applicable) agrees that the child or young person's attendance would be appropriate.
- › focus the discussions on the welfare of the student and ensuring that they are able to access appropriate education and support while they are at home.

- have in place procedures to maintain contact, ensure they are able to access remote education support, as required, and regularly check if they are doing so.
- If on site provision has to temporarily stop on public health advice, the School will discuss with the Local Authority alternative arrangements for vulnerable students.