



# Bishop Douglass Catholic School

In Pursuit of Excellence

## **RISK ASSESSMENT COVID-19 FOR SCHOOL REOPENING, January 2022**

---

1. Risk of accelerating Covid cases amongst pupils and/or staff:

Mitigations:

- a) Staff asked to continue to social distance where practical.
- b) All pupils tested (LFD) on return to school.
- c) Pupils mandated not to hug/kiss (the eight-inch rule)
- d) All advised that they must wear masks in the classroom and communal areas, such as corridors, and on public transport (but pupils might be asked by staff to lower/remove in order to be able to answer questions).
- e) All staff to be asked to declare their vaccination status and underlying health conditions so that school can consider risk. Staff informed that they have to inform the school if changing health circumstances places them at a high or higher risk and bespoke risk assessment to be put in place if requested.
- f) School to continue to make available, anti-viral wipes and sanitizing gel at key points in the school.
- g) All Rooms to be well-ventilated by having windows open (parents advised re warmth), including classrooms and shared office spaces.
- h) Extra hand sanitising facilities to be kept (for the time being) and children directed to these eg first-thing in the morning and after-lunch.
- i) Drinking fountains remain closed.
- j) Staff advised of signs of Covid infection eg cough, runny/blocked nose, headache, temperature, loss of taste and smell, fatigue.
- k) Covid-19 room designated (for suspected cases) and a record kept of any symptoms.
- l) Procedures in place for rooms/areas to be 'covid' cleaned if necessary.
- m) NHS Test and Trace may contact staff to identify close contacts (the importance then is daily LFD tests).
- n) All advised to avoid public transport if possible (eg walk to school) and wear a face mask when travelling on public transport.
- o) 2 metre tape to be put around teacher desk in classrooms.
- p) Arrangements to be put in place for air cleaning units if these are received by the school.

2. Risk that parents will send children in with coronavirus symptoms:

Mitigations:

- a) Permission for Medical room staff to test children - to be sought (addendum to permission for testing).
- b) If pupils receive a positive LFT, they are advised to seek a PCR as soon as possible. If this is negative they may return to school.
- c) Refreshed training for Medical room staff, if necessary, including use of PPE.
- d) Parents advised to test children at home and acquire stocks of LFT tests.

3. Risk of another Covid outbreak which will mean a return to blended learning: In the normal course of events pupils that are off-sick will not have work sent home unless they are off for a protracted period (HoY has to organise sending work home after 6 school days if absence is likely to be protracted or is due to Covid isolation).

Mitigations:

- a) Head of Teaching and Learning to be ready with special Covid-19 remote learning timetable.
- b) SENCO to have plans to offer support to vulnerable and SEND pupils.
- c) Team that will offer support to vulnerable/SEND identified: if school has to close to most pupils. If there are a number of children sent home eg in a Year group, a return to remote learning might be considered.
- d) School to offer supported learning to pupils who are self-isolating.

4. Pupil and/or Staff mental health has been adversely affected by Covid-19 crisis and this causes additional negative issues in school.

Mitigation: Pupils and staff are signposted to supportive counselling/resource.

Risk to staff that are Clinically extremely vulnerable:

Mitigation: Staff that are CEV to be offered a bespoke risk assessment. These are asked to declare themselves CEV and that they may wish to have a bespoke risk assessment to enhance their protection and ensure minimum exposure to risk of the virus.

5. Risk that normal classes may not be able to operate because of staff sickness.

Mitigation: To ensure flexible use of non-teaching staff to provide support if necessary.

6. Risk that essential functions might not be covered: eg First Aid, DSL, SENCO.

Mitigation. To ensure sufficient back-up (labour), and extra training of eg First aiders.

7. That additional contacts eg visitors to the school may bring infection onto the premises.

Mitigation: To consider the merits/demerits of 'virtual' meetings where feasible.

NB

Parents are advised to test children at home every 3-5 days (twice a week) until further notice and report all results to NHS Test and Trace

If pupils receive a positive LFD test they must seek a PCR test as soon as possible. For those who record a positive test the isolation period has been reduced to 7 days (if there are two negative LFD results on day 6 and 7 that are taken 24 hours apart, and they do not have a temperature).

If LFD test is negative they can return to school provided they are displaying no symptoms. Pupils who are close contacts should test daily for 7 days but can attend school if they have no symptoms.

If there is a risk of outbreak. DfE will advise/can be approached for advice on 0800 046 8687 (their helpline)

DHSC PPE Helpline number is 0800 876 6802

Pupils sent home with a positive LFD will have a pack of work given and work set via SATCHEL ONE. Once COVID has been confirmed with a positive PCR test, lessons will be streamed on Microsoft Teams. Work for practical lessons will be set via SATCHEL ONE.

Schools have to update each day the educational settings status form from Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022.