

RA 029A School Opening COVID	19
September 2021	

RISK ASSESSMENT RECORDING FORM

Location or School Address: Brackenwood Junior School	Date assessment Undertaken 17.8.21	Assessment undertaken by: Jeanne Fairbrother and Conal Holmes
Activity or situation: School Opening COVID 19 v2 17th August 2021	Review date: October 2021	Signature: C. Holmes

Background information

School Opening

DfE guidance for schools during the coronavirus COVID 19 pandemic has been that schools are required to have a full school opening risk assessment which is regularly reviewed and updated, treating them as 'living documents', as the circumstances in your school and the public health advice changes. This includes having active arrangements in place to monitor whether the controls are effective and working as planned.

This risk assessment applies to:

- primary schools
- secondary schools (including sixth forms)
- special schools, special post-16 providers and alternative provision
- 16 to 19 academies
- infant, junior, middle, upper schools

Guidance

This risk assessment has regard to all relevant guidance and legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010
- The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013
- Public Health England (PHE) (2017) 'Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities'
- NEW DfE (2021) 'Schools COVID-19 operational guidance' July 2021
- UPDATED DfE (2021) 'Actions for early years and childcare settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak'
- DfE (2021) 'Face coverings in education'

• **UPDATED** 'Actions for out of school settings' July 2021

Legislation and guidance

Health and Safety at Work Act etc. 1974
Management of H&S at Work Regulations 1999
Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992
DfE Actions for schools plus associated COVID 19 Guidance
Public Health England Guidance

1) Hazard / Activity	2) Who can be harmed and how?	3) What controls exist to reduce the risk? Have you followed the hierarchy of controls (eliminate, substitute etc)?	Risk Score Consequence X Likelihood	4) Any further action. This should be included in the action plan (5), below
Failure to assess the risks of COVID 19 transmission in school.	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 School has assessed the reasonably foreseeable risks of transmission of COVID 19 The risk assessment is regularly reviewed as circumstances in school and the public health advice changes. School monitors whether the controls in place are effective. 	3x2=6	
Failing to have adequate outbreak management/contingency plans to allow for stepping measures up and down.	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 School has a Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak Management Plan in case restrictions need to be implemented due to COVID 19. Remote education plans are in place for pupils who are self-isolating or shielding. School will call the DfE helpline on 0800 046 8687 selecting option 1 for advice on the action to take in response to a positive case who will escalate the issue to the local health protection team where necessary and advise if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of the outbreak management plan. School will follow measures recommended by the Local Authority, Director of Public Health and local protection teams (HPTs) as part of the outbreak management responsibilities. Wirral schools contact Wirral LA Covid helpline 0151 666 3600 Email: covidschoolsupport@wirral.gov.uk 	3x2=6	

		From the date that school officially closes for summer, all MDS submissions will stop. From that point, Public Health and the Local Authority will be informed of any outbreaks via NHS T&T.		
Communication	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 School follows latest DfE, PHE & Gov.uk, Merseyside & Cheshire PH Team and LA guidance RA 029A School opening COVID 19 v1 Aug 2021 published to website & shared with unions, LA & governors. Clear communication sent to parents and pupils with a link on the school website covering all aspects of how school will function. Regular staff briefings held to cover any changes to arrangements. School has shared with all staff the measures in place and involved staff & the governing body in that process. A record is kept of all visitors and contractors that come to the school site. 	3x2=6	
Wellbeing - staff & pupils	Staff & pupils exposed to mental health issues due to COVID 19	 Staff are vigilant in discerning pupil mental health and report any concerns to the pastoral care leader. The school provides opportunities for pupils to talk about their mental health and experiences during the pandemic. Pupils have access to pastoral support and activities, e.g. opportunities to renew and develop friendships. Pupil and parent surveys are sent out to assess how they feel about being on the school site and to enable staff to act on any concerns pupils and parents may have. Staff and volunteer surveys are sent out to assess how they feel about being on the school site and enable the SLT to act on any concerns staff and volunteers may have. 	3x2=6	

Face coverings	Staff, pupils, visitors,	• Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and 3x2=6	
All settings unless indicated	contractors increased risk	visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.	
An seeings unless muleated	of transmission of COVID 19	 School will support any staff members, pupils or students that wish to continue to wear a face covering. Face coverings should be worn in enclosed and crowded places - this includes on school & public transport. 	
		 Face coverings will be reintroduced if there is an outbreak in school or if the Director of Public Health advises that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by pupils, staff, and visitors, unless exempt). Face visors or shields are not worn as an equivalent alternative to face coverings; however, they can be worn by those exempt from wearing face coverings. 	
		 School outbreak management plans cover the possibility of face coverings being reintroduced: transparent face coverings can also be worn. face visors or shields can be worn only after carrying out a risk assessment for the specific situation and should always be cleaned appropriately. School will not prevent individuals from entering or attending school if they are not wearing a face covering, if exempt. 	
		 School has a supply of face coverings available Clear instructions are provided on how to put on, remove, store, and dispose of face coverings. 	
PPE	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 Most staff in education, childcare and children's social care settings will not require PPE in response to COVID-19 beyond what they would normally need for their work. Additional PPE for COVID-19 is only required in a very limited number of scenarios: If a child, young person or student becomes ill with 	
		COVID 19 symptoms and only if close contact is necessary when performing aerosol generating procedures AGP's	

		 When working with pupils who cough, spit, vomit or require intimate care but do not have coronavirus symptoms, staff only wear PPE that would routinely be worn. Staff are trained in correct use and disposal of PPE. 		
School fails to ensure good	Staff, pupils, visitors,	Hand hygiene -	3x2=6	
hygiene & cleaning standards in school to	contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	School will continue to ensure that staff & pupils maintain		
reduce risk of transmission.	of transmission of COVID 19	high standards of hand hygiene.		
reduce risk of transmission.		Suitable facilities are provided for individuals to		
		wash/sanitise their hands regularlyPupils are supervised, where appropriate, to use hand		
		 Pupils are supervised, where appropriate, to use hand sanitizer safely. 		
		Respiratory hygiene		
		School emphasises the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach with		
		bins & tissues available.		
		Cleaning		
		School will maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using		
		standard products such as detergents with a focus on		
		frequently touched areas.Appropriate cleaning schedules are in place and include		
		regular cleaning of areas and equipment		
Social distancing - failing to	Staff, pupils, visitors,	Staff and pupils are informed they no longer need to adhere	3x2=6	
manage mixing and	contractors increased risk	to social distancing measures in school unless directed.		
'bubbles.'	of transmission of COVID 19	Pupils are informed they no longer need to be separated into		
		bubbles in school.		
		In the event of a school or local outbreak, the school		
		adheres to the advice of a director of public health, which		
		may include returning to social distancing measures, including pupil bubbles.		
		Assemblies will be reintroduced again, but school will have		
		only one per week.		
		Staggered starts, lunch and breaks to limit numbers will no		
		longer take place.		
		Staff will be permitted to work across year groups		
		Staff meetings will take place in a larger, well-ventilated		
		space.		

		 One staffroom will be used Meetings, including with parents, will resume as face to face. School has outbreak management plans in place to reintroduce bubbles temporarily if it becomes necessary due to local outbreaks or increases in cases at the instruction of PHE Teams. 		
Ventilation - failure to ensure all occupied spaces are well ventilated.	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 When school is in operation, it is well ventilated with comfortable teaching environments. Poorly ventilated spaces have been identified When holding events where visitors are on site e.g. school plays, ventilation is increased. School opens external windows, doors & internal doors (if they are not fire doors and where safe to do so) to increase ventilation. During colder weather, the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature is balanced; opening higher vents, arranging seating away from draughts. Purging or airing rooms as frequently as possible to improve ventilation usually when the room is unoccupied. Outside space will be used, where practical. See The Health and Safety Executive guidance on air conditioning and ventilation during the coronavirus outbreak & CIBSE COVID advice provides more information.	3x2=6	
NHS Test & Trace - School failing to manage tracing close contacts	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 School makes staff aware that it is not responsible for Test and Trace contacting. This will be taken over by the NHS Test and Trace service NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. 	3x2=6	

- School may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts (as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases).
- School will continue to work with the local director of Public Health & local HP Teams in the case of a local outbreak and if the area becomes an Enhanced Support Area.
- Anyone in school who displays symptoms is encouraged to get a PCR test
- Staff, pupils and parents are made aware that they are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:
 - they are fully vaccinated
 - o they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
 - they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
 - they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
 - Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal.
- Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a <u>PCR test</u>. School will encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Whilst awaiting the result of a PCR test

- Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, continue to attend school as normal.
- They do not need to wear a face covering within the school, but it is expected and recommended that these are worn when travelling on public or dedicated transport.

Asymptomatic testing	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 NB. Testing guidance is under review. School makes clear that testing is voluntary. Staff in all education settings are encouraged to test twice weekly at home until the testing guidance is reviewed in September. Confirmatory PCR tests Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19 & self-isolate until they get the result. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the individual can return to school if they do not have COVID-19 symptoms. 	3x2=6	
Asymptomatic testing	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19.	 Primary age pupils (Y 6 and below) will not be expected to test over the summer period. Primary age pupils will be offered the 2 tests at an ATS at the beginning of the autumn term when they start at their secondary school in Y7. School may choose, however, to start testing Y 6 pupils earlier, including in summer schools, depending on local HP Team advice. 	3x2=6	
School fails to follow public health advice on managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 Parents are informed via parent mail of how the school responds to confirmed cases of coronavirus School follows local public health advice and the headteacher contacts the DFE Helpline/local HP Team advice line immediately in the event of a positive test to carry out a rapid risk assessment and identify appropriate next steps. If the school has two or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus is 	3x2=6	

			suspected, the school continues to work with the DfE's dedicated coronavirus advice service (or local HPT if the case is escalated).		
Contact with potential or confirmed coronavirus cases in school	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	•	If anyone in the school develops coronavirus symptoms while at school, this is managed in line with local and national guidance. They are: o sent home to isolate for 10 days (includes the day symptoms started). o advised to follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection. o advised to arrange a PCR test as soon as possible. If a pupil is awaiting collection, they will be left in a well-ventilated room on their own if possible and, if safe to do so. Appropriate PPE will used if close contact is necessary. Anyone with symptoms is advised not to use public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household. Any rooms used are cleaned thoroughly after they have left. Anyone who comes into contact with a symptomatic individual washes their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and warm running water or hand sanitiser. Staff members or pupils who have been in close contact with someone with symptoms do not need to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms. School can take the decision if a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending, to refuse the pupil, if in its reasonable judgement the pupil poses a risk of infection to the school community.	3x2=6	
Pregnant staff inadequate measures in place	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	•	An individual risk assessment is carried out for pregnant staff with appropriate risk mitigation in line with the latest recommendations from DHSC, PHE & RCOG. See RA 026 New & Expectant member of staff.	3x2=6	

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the very small number of pupils under paediatric or other specialist care and their GP or clinician has advised them not to attend. Pupils and students who live with someone who is CEV continue to attend school as normal. School liaises with the parents of CEV pupils, if identified, an	CEV pupil's school has	Staff, pupils, visitors.		All CEV nunils and students attend unless they are one of	3x2=6	
specialist care and their GP or clinician has advised them not to attend. Pupils and students who live with someone who is CEV continue to attend school as normal. School liaises with the parents of CEV pupils, if identified, an	1		_	• • •		
 to attend. Pupils and students who live with someone who is CEV continue to attend school as normal. School liaises with the parents of CEV pupils, if identified, an 	place.			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
continue to attend school as normal. • School liaises with the parents of CEV pupils, if identified, an	•			•		
continue to attend school as normal. • School liaises with the parents of CEV pupils, if identified, an			•	Pupils and students who live with someone who is CEV		
				•		
individual risk assessment is completed.			•	School liaises with the parents of CEV pupils, if identified, an		
				individual risk assessment is completed.		

			T	1
		• The school collaborates with the LA to ensure that alternative		
		arrangements for CEV pupils are in place to prepare for the		
		event that the school site is required to close.		
Transport	Staff, pupils, visitors,	• School will speak to the local authority to find out if they will	3x2=6	
	contractors increased risk	be making any changes to the measures in place for the		
	of transmission of COVID 19	autumn term & to request a copy of their updated risk		
		assessment.		
		 Drivers and passenger assistants will not normally require 		
		personal protective equipment (PPE) on home to school		
		transport.		
		 Pupils who require care and interventions that require the 		
		use of PPE before COIVD-19, will continue as usual.		
		• Pupils do not board home to school transport if they, or a		
		member of their household, has a positive test result or		
		symptoms of coronavirus.		
		• School liaises with the LA and other transport providers to		
		ensure they are adopting COVID-secure protocols, and		
		requests a copy of their risk assessment, where relevant.		
		Face coverings are recommended and expected to be worn		
		in enclosed and crowded places - this includes public and		
		dedicated school transport.		
		 Pupils are advised to clean their hands before boarding 		
		transport and again on disembarking.		
		 Additional cleaning of vehicles is carried out regularly. 		
		 Fresh air through ventilation is maximised by opening 		
		windows and ceiling vents.		
Educational visits	Staff, pupils, visitors,	Educational visits will be conducted in line with the	3x2=6	
	contractors increased risk	government's roadmap. This includes system of controls and		
	of transmission of COVID 19	the COVID-19 secure measures in place at the destination.		
		A thorough risk benefit assessment is made via Evolve for all		
		educational visits to ensure they can be undertaken safely		
		including adventurous activities, local visits, day trips &		
		sports fixtures.		
		 School will ensure it is prepared to carry out 		
		domestic day trips and residential trips.		

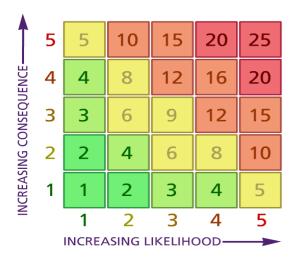
		 School can resume international trips from the start of the Autumn term 2021. Pupils are allowed on trips to outdoor public places and do not need to be restricted to limits on gatherings, provided: It is for the purpose of childcare. A risk assessment is conducted in advance. Good hygiene is maintained throughout. Thorough handwashing happens before and after the trip. The trip is carried out in line with relevant local or national coronavirus guidance. Appropriate insurance arrangements are in place. The school ensures that it has adequate travel insurance and discusses any questions about cover with its insurance provider. The school follows the guidelines relevant to trips to indoor spaces. Once inside: Staff are to remain with the pupils in the group. Pupils and staff should wash hands thoroughly on arrival and before leaving. 		
Extracurricular activities &	Staff, pupils, visitors,	School works to provide all before and after-school	3x2=6	
Out-of-school settings and	contractors increased risk	educational activities and wraparound childcare for all		
wraparound provision - inadequate measures in	of transmission of COVID 19	pupils		
place.		 Out-of-school settings and wraparound childcare providers can offer provision to all children 		
p-a-c-		Out-of-school settings and wraparound childcare and other		
		organised activities for children may take place in groups of		
		any number.		
		 Out-of-school settings and wraparound provisions are run in line with the current government guidance & system of 		
		controls.		
		Parents are advised of the provision available and that they		
		should limit the use of multiple out-of-school settings		
		providers where appropriate.		

		 School ensures third parties who use the school premises have considered the relevant government guidance for their sector and have put in place the appropriate protective measures. School requests a copy of their COVID 19 risk assessment 		
Curriculum - Music, drama, science & DT, and sporting activities	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	Some activities can increase the risk of catching or passing on COVID-19. This happens where people are doing activities which generate more droplets as they breathe heavily, such as singing, dancing, exercising, or raising their voices. The risk is greatest where these factors overlap, for example in crowded indoor spaces where people are raising their voices. In situations where there is a higher risk of catching or passing on COVID-19, schools should be particularly careful to follow the general guidance on keeping safe. Music School & staff are aware that there is evidence to suggest that singing and playing wind and brass instruments increases the risk of coronavirus transmission due to the cumulative aerosol transmission. School has completed RA 023 Music in schools COVID 19 and ensures the relevant protective measures are in place. Dance & Drama School completes risk assessments for Drama & Dance and ensures the relevant protective measures are in place. Sports The school only permits team sports on the list in the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport's (DCMS) team sport guidance. Sports equipment is thoroughly cleaned between each use. School swimming and water safety lessons are conducted in line with Swim England's guidance. Outdoor sports are prioritised where possible. Large indoor spaces with maximised natural ventilation flows, e.g. through opening windows and doors, are used where outdoor sports are not possible.	3x2=6	

Staff overseeing indoor sports follow the system of controls
in this risk assessment e.g. cleaning and hygiene.
Staff are made aware that social distancing in sports is not
required unless directed.
Measures are in place to minimise the risk of transmission in
changing rooms, in line with DCMS guidance.
External facilities are used in line with government
guidance, including travel to and from those facilities.
School works with external coaches, clubs and organisations
for curricular and extracurricular activities and considers
how such arrangements operate within the school's wider
protective measures.
Competitions between different schools, whether indoor or
outdoor, can take place in line with government guidance.
Science
Follows latest guidance from CLEAPSS in addition to system
of controls in school.
GL343 - Guide to doing practical work during the COVID-19
Pandemic – Science (New version)
DT
Follows latest guidance from CLEAPSS in addition to system
of controls in school.

GL344 Guidance on practical work during the COVID-19

pandemic - D&T



Risk Rating	Action Required	
20 - 25	Unacceptable – stop activity and make immediate improvements	
10 - 16	Urgent action – take immediate action and stop activity, if necessary, maintain existing controls vigorously	
5 - 9	Action – Improve within specific timescales	
3 - 4	Monitor – but look to improve at review or if there is a significant change	
1-2	Acceptable – no further action but ensure controls are maintained & reviewed	

<u>Likelihood</u>:

Consequence: 5 – Catastrophic

5 – Very likely

4 – Major

4 – Likely 3 – Fairly likely

3 – Moderate

2 – Unlikely

2 - Minor

1 – Very unlikely

1 - Insignificant

(1) List hazards *something with the potential to cause harm* here

- (2) List groups of people who are especially at risk from the significant hazards which you have identified
- (3) List existing controls here or note where the information may be found. Then try to quantify the level of risk *the likelihood of harm arising* that remains when the existing controls are in place based on the number of persons affected, how often they are exposed to the hazard and the severity of any consequence. Use this column to list the controls that you might take and develop all or some of that list into a workable action plan. Have regard for the level of risk, the cost of any action and the benefit you expect to gain. Agree the action plan with your team leader and make a note of it overleaf.

(5) ACTION PLAN

(5) ACTION PLAN						
	5. Action plan		Responsible	Completed		
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
		Action plan agreed by (NAME & DATE)				