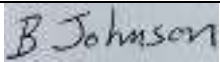




Covid-19 Risk Assessment (revised for start of the new academic year – September 2021)

<u>Name of school:</u>	Cowbit St Mary's CofE Primary School
<u>Name of person completing the risk assessment:</u>	Bruce Johnson
<u>Signed:</u>	
<u>Date completed:</u>	24 th Feb 2022

The technical name of the virus that causes COVID-19 is severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, abbreviated as **SARS-CoV-2**. Whilst the Covid-19 virus can cause serious illness, especially for vulnerable adults with underlying health conditions evidence suggests that for the majority (particularly children and young people) they will experience a mild to moderate illness. Whilst this is a complex and changing situation, there is enough known about the epidemiology of Covid-19 to provide a risk based approach to support staff in their roles.

DfE operational guidance for schools for the start of the new academic year 2021/2022 states that, *'Step 4 marked a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk. As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for 2 doses by mid-September. Our priority is for you to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health.'*

The guidance explains the steps schools need to take to reduce risks still further. This risk assessment is based on that guidance 'Schools COVID – 19 operational guidance' February 2022:

[Schools COVID-19 operational guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101111/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance-february-2022.pdf) and [COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts) The assessment below has been developed based on the following principles:

- That we will act together to ensure the safety and reassurance of all staff, and children.
- It is necessary to remain alert and continue to recognise that all staff and pupils could be potentially carrying Covid-19.
- Application of the published system of controls to individual school circumstances

While coronavirus (COVID-19) still remains in the community, judgments need to be made at a school level about how to balance and minimise any risks from coronavirus (COVID-19) with providing a full educational experience for children. Schools should use their existing resources to make arrangements to welcome all children back.

Potential Hazard	Risk	Who might be harmed?	Minimum control measures to reduce risks to an acceptable level
Covid-19	Staff not having appropriate knowledge on virus, transmission and risk leading to increased transmission of covid-19	Employee, visitors, agency staff, pupils, member of the public	<p>All staff will keep themselves updated and follow the latest DfE. guidance for schools and national Public Health England guidance.</p> <p>In particular staff will be familiar with the Schools Covid-19 operational guidance Feb 2021: Schools COVID-19 operational guidance (publishing.service.gov.uk)</p> <p>Parents are updated via our Classroom Dojo platform. Staff are updated through</p>
Covid-19	Contagious people coming into school leading to increased transmission of covid-19	Employee, visitors, agency staff, member of the public, pupils	<p>School will inform staff parents and potential visitors, including customers and contractors, not to enter the school if they are displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 or if they should be self-isolating. <i>When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test they should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do and should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine). If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they should be sent home and should follow public health advice.</i></p> <p>Parents and staff know to inform school of test results.</p> <p>A process for collecting a child due to illness has been established and shared.</p> <p><i>If a pupil is awaiting collection, they should be left in a room on their own if possible and safe to do so. A window should be opened for fresh air ventilation if possible. Appropriate PPE should also be used if close contact is necessary. Further information on this can be found in the use of PPE in education, childcare and children’s social care settings guidance. Any rooms they use should be cleaned after they have left.</i></p> <p>Staff are aware of the protocol for use of PPE (as set out below) should it be necessary.</p> <p>Staff have been advised to continue undertaking twice weekly LFD tests and to continue to follow the separate guidance in this respect.</p> <p>School will continue to follow its lateral flow testing risk assessment.</p> <p>Staff and parents (in relation to pupils) have been advised:</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if the member of staff or the child has a positive LFD test result, they should self-isolate in line with COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) • they will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19; • whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. <p>Close contacts – see below*</p>
Covid-19	Increased transmission of virus on arrival at the school premises	Employee, visitors, agency staff, member of the public pupils.	<p><i>Most staff in schools will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work. The guidance on the use of The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in education, childcare and children’s social care settings, including for aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</i></p> <p>Hand washing will take place on arrival by pupils and at other key points in the day. This will be supervised by staff, where necessary. Hand sanitiser may also be used.</p> <p>Site guidance on hygiene will be explained to visitors on or before arrival.</p> <p>Sanitiser will be available at Reception Desk and forms part of the signing in protocol.</p> <p>Key contractors and regular visitors (e.g. peripatetic teachers etc.) have been reminded about the school’s control measures and ways of working.</p>
Covid-19	Inadequate implementation of social distancing at school <i>People being unable to adhere to social distancing therefore increasing the transmission and spread of Covid-19</i>	Employee, visitors, agency staff, member of the public, pupils	<p>Whilst there are no longer any government requirements in relation to social distancing (unless the Contingency framework applies – <i>as to which see separate risk assessment</i>), school will continue to try and adhere to the general principles so long as they do not detrimentally affect the delivery of a full education.</p> <p>School workforce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEV staff <p>CEV staff have been advised, as a minimum, to follow the same guidance as everyone else and to think particularly carefully about the additional precautions they can continue to take. They have been signposted to the further information in the guidance on protecting people who are CEV from COVID-19.</p>

		<p><i>CEV people are advised, as a minimum, to follow the same guidance as everyone else. The guidance states that it is important that everyone adheres to this guidance, but CEV people may wish to think particularly carefully about the additional precautions they can continue to take. Further information can be found in the guidance on protecting people who are CEV from COVID-19.</i></p> <p>School has discussed, and shared with relevant staff, reducing risks in school and explained the controls and measures put in place to keep CEV staff safe at school. School has also discussed how they can support CEV staff.</p> <p><i>There is some guidance which the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published on protecting vulnerable workers, including advice for employers and employees on how to talk about reducing risks in the workplace which may assist.</i></p> <p>Ventilation</p> <p>1st DECEMBER - Air purifiers were donated for each classroom and office area by Fellowes (Registered Company)</p> <p>Good ventilation will be ensured when sharing internal spaces.</p> <p>Poorly ventilated spaces have been identified and steps taken to improve fresh air flow in these areas.</p> <p><i>When your school is in operation, it is important to ensure it is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained.</i></p> <p><i>You should identify any poorly ventilated spaces as part of your risk assessment and take steps to improve fresh air flow in these areas, giving particular consideration when holding events where visitors such as parents are on site, for example, school plays.</i></p> <p>Where possible, external windows will be opened to improve natural ventilation, and, where possible internal doors will be opened to assist with creating a throughput of air. If necessary, external opening doors will also be used (if they are not fire doors and where safe to do so). The need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature will be balanced.</p> <p><i>The Health and Safety Executive guidance on air conditioning and ventilation during the COVID-19 pandemic and CIBSE COVID-19 advice provides more information.</i></p> <p>Ventilation to chemical stores will remain operational.</p>
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Anxiety amongst staff	Staff being unaware of and/or concerned about implications for them	Staff	<p><i>Consultation with staff</i> Staff meetings [have been] held prior to the start of term (in person or virtually) to listen to and share with all staff expectations and control measures in place and to address concerns. Expectations of maintaining baseline measurements for prevention has been shared with staff. Regular meetings are timetabled to allow staff opportunities to express concerns. Access to well-being and mental Health support has been, and will continue to be, communicated and shared with staff.</p>
Covid-19	Poor hand & respiratory hygiene leading to increased transmission of covid-19	Employee, visitors, agency staff, member of the public, pupils	<p><i>Hand washing</i> Hand washing protocols will be followed in accordance with appendix 1 - pupils will clean their hands regularly, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When they arrive at school • When they return from breaks • When they change rooms • Before and after eating <p>Staff, visitors and pupils will be reminded to wash their hands for 20 seconds more frequently than normal, including on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing.</p> <p>Time for pupils and staff to wash their hands has been factored into timetables and lesson plans and arrangements have been made for staggered use of washing facilities.</p> <p>Staff will supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap and water (or hand sanitiser if soap is not available or feasible in the particular situation). Some children with special educational needs and disabilities may require additional support in following public health advice, or may find frequent hand washing distressing. Staff know where this is likely to be the case, and how they can best support individual children.</p> <p>School has considered and is satisfied that there are enough hand washing or hand sanitiser stations available and enough supplies of consumables (e.g. soap/hand sanitiser) so that all pupils and staff can clean their hands regularly.</p> <p>School have considered the dangers related to ingestion and fire in relation to hand sanitiser.</p> <p><i>Soap and water, and regular hand washing for at least 20 seconds, is the best way of staying safe. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available, or the situation makes using soap less feasible (for example, when</i></p>

			<p><i>outside), but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.</i></p> <p><i>The e-Bug COVID-19 website contains free resources for you, including materials to encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene.</i></p> <p>'Catch it, bin it, kill it'</p> <p>School will promote coughs and sneezes being caught in tissues. An adequate number of lidded bins for tissues will be provided and will be emptied throughout the day.</p>
Covid-19	Surfaces contaminated with Covid-19 <i>Increased transmission of covid-19 via surface – face contact</i>	Employee, visitors, agency staff, member of the public, pupils	<p>Regular points of contact such as door handles, push plates, code pads and WC levers are cleaned regularly (twice a day) unless it is already known (with certainty) that the building has not been in use for 48hrs.</p> <p>It is assumed that cleaning has not taken place unless there is knowledge to the contrary.</p> <p>A checklist of cleaning has been created and is used to ensure that all frequently used objects and items are cleaned and disinfected including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Door handles • Desks, table tops • Toys • Teaching equipment/resources • Bannisters • Light switches • Books • Toilets • Sinks <p>Disposable cloths are always used.</p> <p>[Additional cleaning capacity is in place through use of teaching and support staff.]</p> <p><i>Refer to the guidance published by PHE - cleaning of non-healthcare settings. and/or Plumsun, if required</i></p> <p>Catering / Kitchen</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings</p>
Covid-19	Intimate care and minimising the risk of Covid-19	Employee, visitors, agency staff, member of	<p>School staff will continue to use the PPE that they have always used (such as an apron and gloves in addition to masks) when undertaking more intimate care with pupils.</p> <p>School staff are aware of the protocol for the use of PPE as set out below.</p>

	<i>Intimate care procedures leading to increased transmission of covid-19</i>	the public, pupils	
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Suggested protocol for the use of PPE (Based upon Public Health England Guidelines).			
	Category	PPE Requirements	Educational Setting
1	Staff / Pupil interaction where distance of 2m can be maintained throughout	Close adherence to hand (i) and respiratory hygiene protocols (ii). No additional PPE required beyond what would usually be worn for any given task	The majority of school and childcare settings will fall into this category. For example, Class Teacher and Classroom assistants working within a classroom environment where social distancing can be adhered to.
2	Staff / pupil interaction where momentary (iii) physical contact is required or cannot maintain 2m distance.	Close adherence to hand and respiratory hygiene protocols.	In some childcare and school settings where intimate care is required it may be necessary to wear a surgical facemask when undertaking certain tasks (e.g. administration of medication where it cannot be self-medicated, or When administering first aid, self-administration is not possible e.g. child places their own plaster on a cut / laceration
3	Prolonged/intimate (v) physical contact is required between member of staff and Pupil.	Close adherence to hand and respiratory hygiene protocols.	Anyone who is symptomatic should not be in a childcare or school setting. However, if required to undertake intimate care with a child or young person then category 3 PPE will apply e.g. If a child requires intimate care when administering first aid as a result of serious injury. If that child were coughing or spitting, this should include eye protection.

4	Any scenario in the household of a 'shielded' (viii) person. Close adherence to hand and respiratory hygiene protocols	PPE required - Disposable gloves and plastic apron in addition to single use (ix) surgical facemask.	Not applicable
5	Specialist scenarios e.g. Aerosol generating procedures, hospital inpatients, home births, phlebotomy in non-compliant patients etc.	Specialist PPE requirements	Not applicable

NB: This summary relates to PHE's COVID-19: infection prevention and control, last updated 25th February 2021

In circumstances where staff feel PPE is appropriate following the principles above careful judgement should be used to consider likely risk and also any impact of behaviour the child/young person may demonstrate as a result of PPE being worn. The wearing of PPE unless carefully removed in itself can add increased risk therefore it is expected the wearing of PPE will be subject to training sessions. Separate guidance is available on the use of PPE in education and child care is available at; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

Managing risk if an individual displays symptoms	Proximity to a person displaying covid-19 symptoms leading to increased transmission of covid-19	Employee, pupils, agency staff, member of the public	<p>If anyone develops symptoms, the main symptoms of COVID-19 are a recent onset of any of the following:</p> <p>a new continuous cough</p> <p>a high temperature</p> <p>a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)they will be sent home and told to follow public health advice - when to self-isolate and what to do</p> <p>They will also be told to avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.</p> <p>An Identified room has been located enabling the contagion to be contained, if required.</p> <p>If a pupil is awaiting collection, they will be left in the identified room on their own if possible and safe to do so. A window will be opened for fresh air ventilation if possible. Appropriate PPE will also be used if close contact is necessary. Any rooms they use will be cleaned after they have left.</p> <p>Staff are aware of the protocol for use of PPE (as set out above) should it be necessary.</p> <p>The household (including any siblings) will be advised to follow the PHE guidance.</p>
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			<p>*Close contacts and isolation <i>Individuals 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</i></p> <p>Public health advice for People with COVID-19 and their contacts changed from 24 February. Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended.</p> <p>Individuals who do not need to isolate, but have been identified as a close contact, will be informed that they (or parents will be informed if it is a child) should continue to attend school as normal and will be encouraged to take a PCR test if advised to do so.</p> <p><i>The annex to the DfE Contingency framework (which describes the principles of managing local outbreaks) states that, identifying a group that is likely to have mixed closely will be different for each setting but gives the following examples:</i></p> <p><i>For schools:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>a form group or subject class;</i> • <i>a friendship group mixing at breaktimes;</i> • <i>a sports team;</i> • <i>a group in an after-school activity.</i> <p><i>For wraparound childcare or out-of-school settings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>a private tutor or coach offering one-to-one tuition to a child, or to multiple children at the same time;</i> • <i>staff and children taking part in the same class or activity session together.</i> <p>Parents and staff have been informed that they should notify school if a child or staff member is admitted to hospital with Covid-19 and school will seek PHE advice.</p> <p>Remote education</p> <p>School will, where appropriate, support those who need to self-isolate because they have tested positive to work or learn from home if they are well enough to do so.</p>
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			<p><i>Schools are subject to the remote education temporary continuity direction and are required to provide remote education to pupils covered by the direction where their attendance would be contrary to government guidance or legislation around COVID-19.</i></p> <p>School will maintain its capacity to deliver high quality remote education, including for pupils who are abroad, and facing challenges to return due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, for the period they are abroad.</p> <p>The remote education provided will be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school.</p> <p>School will work collaboratively with families and put in place reasonable adjustments so that pupils with SEND can successfully access remote education.</p>
Catering	Catering facilities may not be available due to social distancing / self-isolation restrictions	Pupils	<p>Arrangements are in place to provide food on site, including the requirement for universal free school meals.</p> <p>Arrangements for the continued provision of free school meal support to pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals who are not attending school owing to isolation are in place.</p>
<p>Pupil Re-orientation and/or anxiety</p> <p><i>Back into school after another period of closure/being at home</i></p>	Pupil and parents not aware of the new requirements and routines	Pupils, staff, parents	<p>Pupil wellbeing and support</p> <p><i>You can access useful links and sources of support on promoting and supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools</i></p> <p>Plans for pupils with SEND and those with medical conditions are in place, have been reviewed and shared with parents and will continue to be updated as appropriate.</p>

Covid-19	Educational visits resumed leading to increased possibility of contracting the virus	Employee, member of the public, pupils	<p>International visits will not be considered.</p> <p>Full and thorough risk assessments will be undertaken in relation to all educational visits and school will ensure that any public health advice, such as hygiene and ventilation requirements, is included as part of these risk assessments.</p> <p>In relation to any new domestic visits, school will ensure that any new bookings have adequate financial protection in place.</p> <p>School will liaise with Plumsun, as appropriate, in relation to visits and risk assessments.</p> <p><i>General guidance about educational visits is available and is supported by specialist advice from the Outdoor Education Advisory Panel (OEAP)</i></p>
Covid-19	Increased vulnerability to illness	BAME Children and staff New and expectant mothers	<p>All children and staff in school who may be considered to be part of this community have been identified and staff are aware of the elevated risk to health. The following has been actioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns have been discussed with parents or staff, as appropriate • All those identified have had the opportunity to share concerns • Adequate PPE is available for staff use and arrangements are in place to ensure there is always adequate PPE • Information shared and updated by the DfE and https://bameednetwork.com is, and will continue to be reflected in revisions of this risk assessment • Specific risk assessments for expectant mothers have been undertaken.

Appendix 1: Clean hands protect against infection (WHO protocol)

Protect yourself

- Clean your hands regularly.
- Wash your hands with soap and water, and dry them thoroughly.
- Use alcohol-based hand rub if you don't have immediate access to soap and water.

How do I wash my hands properly? Washing your hands properly takes about as long as singing "Happy Birthday" twice, using the images below:

Appendix 2

People falling into this **extremely vulnerable group** include:

1. Solid organ transplant recipients.
2. People with specific cancers:
 - people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy
 - people with lung cancer who are undergoing radical radiotherapy
 - people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
 - people having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer ☑ people having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
 - people who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
3. People with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe COPD.
4. People with rare diseases and inborn errors of metabolism that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell).
5. People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection.
6. Women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired.

NB: Patients should have received notification directly from the government and or their GP practice about whether they fall into this group and how to reduce their risk.

