




# South Gosforth First School

*'Roots to grow and wings to fly'*

<b>SOUTH GOSFORTH FIRST SCHOOL RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COVID 19</b>	<b>Note:</b>  Following the latest guidance published by the DfE in January 2022 relating to the end of Plan B control measures.
<b>Activity:</b> School use during Covid - 19 Pandemic	<b>Location:</b> All areas
<b>Assessment reviewed by:</b> NCC Corporate H&S section	<b>Date Completed:</b> Revised - Late January 2022

Likelihood						Likelihood	X	Consequence/Severity/Injury			Increasing severity of injury or health effect	
	5	10	15	20	25	1 = Rare		1 =Extremely low- Trivial injury/heath effect				
	4	8	12	16	20	2 = Unlikely		2 =Low				
	3	6	9	12	15	3 = Possible		3 =Medium				
	2	4	6	8	10	4 = Probable		4 =High				
	1	2	3	4	5	5 = Almost certain		5 = Fatality				
	Consequence/Severity/Injury					1-6 = LOW risk	8-15 = MEDIUM risk	16-25 HIGH risk				

**Supporting documentation:** *Student return following partial closure due to Covid - 19 virus*

*Revised first aid procedures*

*Revised evacuation procedure*

*Proposed timetable*

Consideration should be given to Public Health England and LA guidance regarding local transmission rates (R) rather than the national, in addition to the number of new cases in the local area.

**Key Notes:**

Temporary Plan B measures introduced as a response to the Omicron variant have now been removed. The impact on guidance is as follows:

- From 27 January 2022, the Government no longer recommend that face coverings should be worn by any pupils, students, staff or adult visitors when moving around premises, such as in corridors and communal areas. Everyone should follow wider advice on face coverings outside of education settings, including on transport to and from education settings. South Gosforth First School reserves the right to continue to request adults to wear masks in communal areas around school based upon the current number of COVID-19 cases in school and the subsequent level of risk which we feel that this presents to our children and staff.
- The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place. However, in addition to this, From 14 December 2021, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result. Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:
  - Fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
  - All children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
  - People who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
  - People taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine

Children under 5 years are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts.

Pupils with SEND identified as close contacts should be supported by their school and their families to agree the most appropriate route for testing including, where appropriate, additional support to assist swabbing.

N.B Close contacts in schools are now identified and advised by Test and Trace. Education settings are no longer required to undertake contact tracing.

**Stepping Measures Up and Down:**

Schools should remain aware that restrictions could continue to be stepped up or down in a single school, local area or nationally, where it is deemed necessary to break the chain of transmission or to reflect necessary measures to control new variants. Schools should therefore ensure that any contingency plans continue to reflect this possibility.

Schools should have additional risk assessments in place to supplement this general risk assessment. These should detail any specific additional arrangements in place to comply with the control measures detailed within this assessment and to manage the risks presented by Covid-19.

Hazard	Who is at risk	Risk Level	Preventative and protective measures to reduce risk to an acceptable level	Final Risk Level
<p>General: Risk of viral cross contamination.</p> <p>(Spread of virus due to airborne particles and residues of bodily fluids on surfaces).</p>	<p>All building users</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Government guidance focusses on 4 main control measures that schools should implement to control the risks presented by Covid-19. These are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ensure good hygiene for everyone</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Hand hygiene</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff, pupils, and visitors should continue to be encouraged to clean hands thoroughly and frequently using soap and water or hand sanitiser.</li> </ul> <p><b>Respiratory hygiene</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important. To summarise, everyone should be encouraged to- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve (not hands) when coughing or sneezing.</li> <li>○ Place used tissues in the bin immediately.</li> <li>○ Wash hands with soap and water often or use hand sanitiser (if soap and water are unavailable).</li> <li>○ Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth if hands are not clean.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The <a href="#">e-Bug COVID-19 website</a> contains free resources <i>and</i> materials to encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene.</p> <p><b>2) Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents</b></p> <p>An appropriate cleaning schedule should be in place and maintained, which includes regular, programmed cleaning of areas and equipment, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.</p>	<p>Low</p>

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			<p><b>3) Keep occupied spaces well ventilated</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the school is in operation, it should be well ventilated with a comfortable teaching environment maintained.</li> <li>• Any poorly ventilated spaces should be identified, and steps taken to improve fresh air flow into these areas, giving particular consideration to any events where visitors such as parents are on site e.g. during school plays etc.</li> <li>• Mechanical ventilation that uses a fan to draw fresh air or extract air from a room should be adjusted to increase the ventilation rate wherever possible and checked to ensure they meet current guidance and that only fresh outside air is circulated.</li> <li>• Where possible, systems should be adjusted to provide full fresh air.</li> <li>• Where systems cannot provide full fresh air, they should only be operated as normal where they serve a single room and can be supplemented by an outdoor air supply.</li> <li>• All mechanical ventilation systems must be maintained in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations.</li> <li>• Consideration should be given to opening external doors and windows, and internal doors to improve natural ventilation and a throughput of air. <b>N.B.</b> This should only be undertaken where doing so is safe, does not impact on security and where the doors to be opened are not internal fire doors.</li> </ul> <p>The need for increased ventilation should be balanced against maintenance of a comfortable temperature.</p> <p>Note: Where additional devices have been provided by the government to assist in ensuring air standards are suitable (such as CO2 monitors,) these can be used to provide additional assurances following the instructions provided with them. They</p>	

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			<p>should not be a replacement for general precautions detailed above.</p> <p><b>4) Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19</b></p> <p><b>Covid-19 Symptoms or Positive Test Results</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils, staff, and others should not come to the school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test or where they are required to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on Covid-19 (such as when required to quarantine). Public Health advice on <u>when to self-isolate and what to do</u> should be followed.</li> <li>• If anyone develops symptoms when at school they should be sent home, avoiding public transport and where possible, be collected by a member of their family or household. Public health advice should then be followed in relation to testing and isolation.</li> <li>• Close contacts in schools are now identified by NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. Test and Trace will advise close contacts on the correct action to take depending on circumstances and the current rules in place.</li> <li>• Whilst a symptomatic pupil is waiting to be collected, they should still be isolated in a room on their own, if this is possible and safe to do so. A window to the room should be opened, if possible, to increase ventilation. Any rooms they use should be cleaned thoroughly after they have left. Inform your cleaning provider if an area has been occupied by a symptomatic / positive member of staff or child, such as</li> </ul>	

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			<p>a classroom, office space etc. and requires cleaning, to ensure enhanced cleaning precautions are followed. Communal areas where the individual has simply passed through, such as corridors, can be cleaned thoroughly as normal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any waste generated in an isolation area from students with flu-like symptoms is to be double bagged, labelled with the date and stored for 72 hours before disposing in normal waste.</li> <li>Appropriate PPE should be worn by staff caring for a symptomatic child. Further information on this can be found in the <u>use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care settings</u> guidance.</li> <li>Inform Public Health England's local health protection team if they have not already contacted you. Call 0300 303 8596 and choose option 1 from the menu.</li> <li>The household (including any siblings) should follow the PHE <u>stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection</u>.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Asymptomatic testing</u></b></p> <p>Government guidance recommends the following with regards to ongoing testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff should undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site.</li> <li>Secondary school pupils should also be encouraged to continue testing twice weekly at home using LFD test kits.</li> <li>Secondary schools should also retain a small asymptomatic testing site (ATS) on-site until further notice</li> </ul>	

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			<p>so they can offer testing to pupils who are unable to test themselves at home.</p> <p><b>Confirmatory PCR tests</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the <u>stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection</u>. They will also need to <u>get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19</u>.</li> <li>• Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.</li> <li>• 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 pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have any COVID-19 symptoms.</li> </ul> <p><b>Face Coverings</b></p> <p>From 27 January 2022, the Government no longer recommend that face coverings should be worn by any pupils, students, staff or adult visitors when moving around premises, such as in corridors and communal areas. Everyone should follow wider advice on face coverings outside of education settings, including on transport to and from education settings. South Gosforth First School reserves the right to continue to request adults to wear masks in communal areas around school based upon the current number of COVID-19 cases in school and the subsequent level of risk which we feel that this presents to our children and staff.</p>	

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			<b>Other Considerations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key contractors must be made aware of the school's control measures and ways of working.</li> <li>Further guidance on Covid in relation to new and expectant mothers can be found on the relevant services to schools H&amp;S webpages and should be considered as part of the associated risk assessment process.</li> </ul>	
Cross contamination during the testing of asymptomatic students and staff.	Personnel involved in the testing process and those being tested.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Testing arrangements for students and staff should be organised in accordance with relevant elements of the following guidance documents, including site set-up, PPE requirements, waste disposal and cleaning arrangements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NHS Test and Trace 'Schools and Colleges Handbook' -Covid 19 National Testing Programme.</li> <li>Department of Health and Social Care- Clinical Standard Operating Procedure for Mass Testing with Lateral Flow Antigen Testing Devices.</li> <li>APSE Briefing: Waste management and disposal issues on rapid testing sites.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Low
Contraction of the infection by those with pre-existing health conditions or other conditions likely to significantly increase the risk of serious illness.	Individuals identified as being Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) or clinically vulnerable	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) children and young people should attend their education setting unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under pediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend.</li> </ul> <p>Further information is available in the guidance on <u>supporting pupils at school with medical conditions</u>.</p>	Low

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Educational visits	Staff and students	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupils and staff travelling abroad must follow the governments travel advice for that respective country.</li> <li>You should be aware that the travel list (and broader international travel policy) is subject to change and green list countries may be moved into amber or red at short notice. The travel lists may also change during a visit and you must comply with international travel legislation and have contingency plans in place to account for these changes.</li> <li>You should speak to either your visit provider, commercial insurance company, or the risk protection arrangement (RPA) to assess the protection available. Independent advice on insurance cover and options can be sought from the British Insurance Brokers' Association (BIBA) or Association of British Insurers (ABI). Any school holding ATOL or ABTA refund credit notes may use these credit notes to rebook educational or international visits.</li> <li>You should undertake full and thorough risk assessments in relation to all educational visits and ensure that any public health advice, such as hygiene and ventilation requirements, is included as part of that risk assessment. <u>General guidance</u> about educational visits is available and is supported by specialist advice from the <u>Outdoor Education Advisory Panel (OEAP)</u>.</li> </ul>	Low
Minibus use	Staff and students	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The driver's window should remain open throughout the journey.</li> <li>Hands should be washed or sanitised by all parties at the end of a journey.</li> <li>Alcohol hand gel is to be available in vehicle glove boxes.</li> <li>Face coverings should be worn within the vehicle where those travelling together do not normally mix.</li> </ul>	Low
Administration of first aid	First aid staff	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only qualified staff are to administer first aid</li> <li>First aid staff should wash their hands prior to and after</li> </ul>	Low

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	Injured/ill parties		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>administering first aid.</li> <li>The use of appropriate PPE should be employed. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disposable gloves</li> <li>Aprons</li> <li>Face mask</li> <li>Goggles/Face shields, where there is a risk of being splashed in the face by bodily fluids.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Any waste generated, including disposable PPE, whilst administering first aid should be double bagged and binned.</li> <li>Non disposable PPE should be specific to the user. Equipment should be identified with the person's name using a permanent marker and should be cleaned appropriately using sanitising wipes prior to storage, following each use.</li> <li>First aid box stocks to be maintained and replenished after use.</li> </ul>	
Challenging behaviour	All building users	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Known traits and considerations to be identified in the students 'Learning Passport'.</li> <li>Where physical restraint has been unavoidable, all parties should wash their hands / forearms / face etc, as required, thoroughly after the event.</li> </ul>	Low
High levels of student anxiety	Students, Parents, Carers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students to be made aware in advance where school activities will not be operating under its normal format.</li> <li>Concerns to be raised with pastoral staff so that support can be provided.</li> <li>Staff should be mindful when using PPE that their appearance may make students feel uneasy.</li> <li>Vulnerable students who are at a higher risk to be identified and given special consideration. It may be in the student's best interest to attend face to face catch up rather than group lessons.</li> <li>Bereavement counselling to be provided on a bespoke basis.</li> <li>Some pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in</li> </ul>	Low

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			response to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. You can access useful links and sources of support on <u><a href="#">promoting and supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools</a></u>	
High levels of staff anxiety	Staff		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff to advise SLT of any concerns they may have. All concerns will be dealt with on a confidential basis.</li> <li>• Vulnerable staff who are at a higher risk to be identified and given special consideration.</li> <li>• Staff to be made aware of support networks available to them by SLT e.g. Public Health England.</li> <li>• Bereavement counseling to be provided on a bespoke basis.</li> </ul>	Low
Fire hazard resulting from ethanol-based hand sanitiser on site.	All building users	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stock to be stored in a metal locker in an area with restricted access. The locker should be labeled to advise of potential fire risk. Area should be kept cool and ventilated.</li> <li>• Dispensers in classrooms to be stored away from heat sources, sources of ignition and out of direct sunlight.</li> <li>• All staff to be advised of potential fire risk and precautionary measures.</li> <li>• Classroom dispensers to be managed by the teacher in charge.</li> </ul>	Low