



**Gillamoor CE (VC)**  
**Primary School**

**Coronavirus (COVID-19):  
Full Opening Plan**

Signed by:

\_\_\_\_\_ Headteacher

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair of governors

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## About this plan

This plan outlines how Gillamoor CE (VC) Primary School will operate with all pupils in attendance, including the infection control measures that will be in place to ensure our school community is safe and supported. We will also use this plan to outline some of the particular considerations we will be foregrounding during the initial return period following the partial school closure.

Preparation for welcoming all pupils back to full on-site provision has been undertaken by the headteacher and other senior members of staff; however, the governing board retains the responsibility for key decisions and the school's plans were shared with the board before pupils and staff members returned.

The school will continue to work closely with:

- Parents, staff and recognised unions when agreeing the best approaches for the school's circumstances.
- The LA to determine what services are required and agree any specific arrangements during this period.

This is a live document that will be reviewed by the headteacher in conjunction with other key stakeholders as and when public health and government guidance changes.

**Please note:** This plan operates in conjunction with the following school documents, which we will maintain up-to-date at all times:

- Coronavirus (COVID-19): Risk Assessment for Schools
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): Contingency Plan
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Pupil Remote Learning Policy

### Key terms for readers of this plan

The following acronyms, some of which are new or highly specific to the current coronavirus (COVID-19) circumstances, have been outlined here to support readers using this plan.

Acronym	Term
[Secondary schools only] ATS	Asymptomatic testing site
CEV	Clinically extremely vulnerable
CV	Clinically vulnerable
EHE	Elective home education
LFD	Lateral flow device
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
SPL	Shielding patient list

## **Attendance**

All pupils are expected to return to full-time on-site provision in the week commencing 8 March. Attendance is mandatory in line with the usual rules, i.e. parents have a legal duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school.

Where pupils routinely attend more than one setting, they will be permitted to continue to do so, and the school will work in collaboration with the other setting(s) to address any potential health and safety risks.

### **Recording attendance**

We will record attendance in line with the following requirements, in addition to the usual duties for recording attendance:

- Pupils who are self-isolating or quarantining in line with public health advice will be recorded with code X

### **Clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) individuals**

We will follow any changes to public health advice regarding the attendance of clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) individuals, ensuring we offer all possible support to learn or work remotely where CEV members of the school community are unable to attend the school site.

CEV individuals are currently on the shielding patient list (SPL) and, therefore, under national public advice to stay at home, meaning we will not expect them to attend the school site. Pupil absences due to such public health advice will not be penalised. Pupils will receive remote education in line with our Pupil Remote Learning Policy, and we will ensure staff are supported to work from home where possible.

We may request a copy of the shielding letter received by CEV pupils or staff to confirm their attendance status.

Clinically vulnerable (CV) individuals, including pregnant staff, as well as those who were previously but no longer CEV and those who live with CEV individuals can, and are expected to, attend the school site.

### **Anxiety about attending school**

We recognise that it is very possible that some staff members, pupils and their families, may feel reluctant or anxious about returning to school following the partial closure. Although we will impress the importance of attending the school site, we will also be sensitive to these worries, particularly where staff or pupils may be at increased risk from coronavirus.

We will encourage staff members to raise any concerns with their line manager, and for pupils or their parents to get in touch with the headteacher to talk through the health and safety measures in place at the school. We will endeavour to accommodate any additional requirements to support the full attendance of these individuals at school where possible.

## **Engaging vulnerable pupils**

Where a vulnerable pupil does not attend school, including if they are following public health advice, e.g. self-isolating, the school will:

- Notify their social worker immediately, if they have one.
- Check the pupil has access to remote education, if they are absent on public health advice.
- Agree with the parent, or social worker where appropriate, the best way to maintain contact and offer support to the pupil.
- Work with the family, social worker or other relevant authority, to re-engage the pupil in their education.

## **Elective home education (EHE)**

The school will be aware that there may be increased numbers of parents seeking to commence elective home education (EHE) for their children following the partial school closure. Although EHE will not be immediately considered as posing a high risk to pupil safety, staff will be aware that if they have any concerns regarding a pupil whose parent is opting for them to begin EHE, they should raise these with the DSL immediately. The DSL will coordinate with the LA and other relevant authorities as necessary.

## **Supporting attendance**

The school will issue sanctions where appropriate for unauthorised absences, in line with usual attendance procedure. The school will ensure it meets all its attendance duties – recording attendance and following up any absences, including reporting incidents of children missing education (CME) to the LA, where necessary.

We will also ensure we identify those pupils at risk of persistent absence and disengagement prior to fully opening, including vulnerable pupils, potential newly vulnerable pupils, pupils with a record of persistent absence and pupils who have struggled to engage with school during the period of partial closure.

## **Systems of infection control**

Our risk assessment will be revisited and updated before the school reopens fully to all pupils, to consider additional risks and control measures and ensure the safety of all pupils and staff. We will consult with staff as part of the assessment, to ensure everyone's needs are understood and accounted for, and ensure all staff receive a copy of the updated risk assessment. A copy of this updated risk assessment will be held and available to view via the school website.

The relevant health and safety measures outlined in the school's Infection Control Policy will be implemented at all times as the school opens fully.

## **Social distancing**

To reduce the risk of transmitting coronavirus in our school, we expect staff, pupils and visitors to follow the social distancing measures in place. We do expect pupils to follow these rules where they apply; however, we recognise that some pupils may be unable to fully understand

or enact social distancing principles, e.g. because they are very young or have complex needs. The school will continue to work with all pupils to ensure their safety and positively reinforce good social distancing behaviour.

### **Pupil group arrangements**

As we are a small school we will be functioning as one bubble. It will be necessary for staff to work with pupils across school. Staff are not required to maintain a two-metre distance between themselves and pupils, but they should aim to minimise close face-to-face contact, where possible. In addition,

- Staff should aim to encourage older pupils, i.e. in upper KS2 to maintain distance and not touch staff and peers, where possible.
- Staff should aim to maintain a two-metre distance between themselves and other staff members where possible.
- Staff working with pupils who cannot maintain social distancing, e.g. very young pupils, are expected to deliver their duties as normal, with no distancing required.

Distancing may be relaxed in order to facilitate specialist teaching, wraparound care and transport to the school site.

### **Start and finish times**

Pupils' start and finish times will not be staggered but we must emphasise the need for adults dropping off to adhere to social distancing guidelines as much as possible. We recommend that pupils are dropped off or picked up by only one accompanying adult.

We ask that parents do not enter school buildings or gather in groups on or outside of the school premises when dropping off or collecting their child.

Start and finish times for staff will not be staggered – staff should continue to arrive at and leave the school site as normal.

### **Moving around the school**

Movement around the school will be restricted in most circumstances to minimise the close proximity of pupils in our small school.

Unless exempt, visitors are required to wear face coverings when moving around communal areas of the school where it is particularly difficult to maintain social distancing, e.g. corridors and staircases. More information is available in the [Face coverings](#) section below.

### **Staff areas**

Staff should attempt to maintain a two-metre distance from one another whilst in the staff room. They may continue to use the staff room in line with their breaktimes and lunchtimes.

## Increased hygiene practices

We will be enforcing increased hygiene measures across the school site to ensure that good hand and respiratory hygiene are consistently maintained.

We expect all individuals on the school site to follow these rules; however, we recognise that some pupils may be unable to fully understand infection control principles, e.g. if they are very young or have complex needs. The school will work with all pupils to ensure their safety and positively reinforce good infection control behaviour where necessary.

Staff, pupils and visitors are expected to adhere to the following key measures:

- All individuals wash their hands at various points throughout the day, including upon entering school, when they change rooms, before and after eating, before and after breaktimes, after using the toilet, and after coughing or sneezing.
- All individuals wash their hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
- Younger pupils and pupils with complex needs are supervised when washing their hands.
- The school enforces the 'catch it, kill it, bin it' approach to containing coughs and sneezes.

In order to support the consistent adherence to the above measures, the school will ensure:

- Handwashing and hand sanitiser stations are available across the school.
- Pupils are supported with the use of hand sanitiser, handwashing and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach if required, e.g. if they are very young or have complex needs.
- There are enough tissues and lidded bins available to support staff and pupils to follow this routine.
- These routines are built into school culture and supported through behavioural expectations, ensuring all pupils understand why they must follow good hygiene practices.
- These routines are well aligned with the school timetable.

The school will recognise that staff who work with pupils who spit uncontrollably, and pupils who use saliva as a sensory stimulant, or struggle with the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach, may require more opportunities to wash their hands.

## Enhanced cleaning measures

An enhanced cleaning schedule will remain in place to ensure more frequent cleaning of rooms, shared areas, frequently touched surfaces and resources, and resources used for the delivery of therapies where possible.

Where cleaning resources is not possible in between uses, resources may be restricted to one user or will be left unused for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different individuals.

Pupil groups will not be allocated their own toilets; however, all toilets will be cleaned more frequently.

## **Bringing items into school**

To minimise the risk of potentially transmitting infection between households and the school, we will ask that staff and pupils do not bring non-essential items from home into school with them – this includes items intended for recreational use during breaks and lunchtimes, e.g. toys. Staff and pupils will be able to take items from school, e.g. books, home with them if needed, provided that these items are properly cleaned before and after being in their homes. The following equipment can be brought to school:

- Essential medication and medical equipment
- Coats and other essential outdoor wear
- Spectacles and spectacle cases
- Packed lunches
- Stationery and books
- Washed PE kits
- Mobile phones (staff only)

## **Increased ventilation**

To help reduce the spread of coronavirus in school, we will ensure it is well ventilated whilst maintaining a comfortable temperature.

Where possible, we will:

- Adjust our mechanical ventilation systems to increase the ventilation rate and check to confirm that normal operation meets current guidance.
- Open windows – in cooler weather, windows will be opened just enough to provide constant background ventilation and opened more fully during breaks to purge the air in the space.
- Open internal doors to help create a flow of air.
- Open external opening doors, where necessary and where safe.

To balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature, we will also:

- Open high-level windows, in preference to low-level, to reduce draughts.
- Increase the ventilation while spaces are unoccupied, e.g. between classes.
- Provide flexibility to allow additional, suitable indoor clothing for staff and pupils.
- Rearrange furniture to avoid direct draughts, where possible.

## **Immunisation providers**

We will engage with our local immunisation providers to provide immunisation programmes on site as normal, ensuring these are delivered in line with our control measures.

## **Face coverings and PPE**

### **Face coverings**

We will expect all staff and adult visitors, other than those exempt, to wear face coverings when in areas of the school site where social distancing between adults cannot be maintained,

e.g. in corridors and communal areas. Pupils will not be required to wear a face covering at any time when on the school site.

We will remind our staff and pupils that face visors or shields should not be worn in place of face coverings, as the government believes they are of reduced efficacy in terms of limiting aerosol transmission of coronavirus. Where a face visor is required in place of a face covering, e.g. to support lip reading, the school will complete a specific risk assessment for its use, and ensure the visor is cleaned thoroughly and regularly.

The school will provide clear instructions on how to put on, remove, store and dispose of face coverings. This includes:

- Cleaning hands before and after touching a face covering.
- Storing face coverings in individual, sealable plastic bags.
- Not wearing damp or soiled face coverings.
- Adjusting the above requirements for pupils with complex needs, where necessary.

The school will have a contingency supply of face coverings available.

### **Personal protective equipment (PPE)**

Staff will use PPE if:

- A pupil shows symptoms of, or tests positive for, coronavirus, and a distance of two metres cannot be maintained.
- They are performing aerosol generating procedures (AGPS).
- They would normally wear it to carry out their role, e.g. where a pupil requires intimate care or is receiving first aid following an accident or injury.

## **Managing cases of coronavirus**

**The school will inform all members of the school community, including visitors, that they must not enter the school premises if:**

- **They display symptoms of, or tests positive for, coronavirus.**
- **Anyone with whom they are in a household, support, or childcare bubble displays symptom of, or tests positive for, coronavirus.**
- **They are required to quarantine following a visit to a country outside the UK's current travel corridors.**

**We will also ensure all members of the school understand that if they are instructed to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the PHE local health protection team, they have a legal obligation to comply.**

The symptoms of coronavirus will be reiterated to all members of the school community, including:

- A high temperature – this means feeling hot to touch on the chest or back

- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if an individual usually has a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of smell or taste – this means the individual cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If a staff member starts to display symptoms of coronavirus at school, the school will take the following immediate actions:

- They will be asked to go home immediately.
- They will be strongly advised to get tested for coronavirus.
- They will be strongly advised to engage with the NHS Test and Trace programme.
- Areas they have occupied will be disinfected as soon as possible.

If a pupil starts to display symptoms of coronavirus at school, the school will take the following immediate actions:

- The pupil will be asked to self-isolate in school using a designated area.
- The pupil will be supervised while waiting for collection, where required.
- The pupil's emergency contact will be notified that they must be picked up as soon as possible.
- The pupil's parents will be strongly encouraged to get their child tested for coronavirus.
- The pupil's parents will be strongly encouraged to engage with the NHS Test and Trace programme.

Areas the pupil has occupied will be disinfected

Where staff and pupils are not at school, we will ask that individuals please notify the school office via telephone as soon as possible if:

- They, or somebody in their household, have tested positive for coronavirus (including from their routine lateral flow device (LFD) tests where appropriate).
- They, or somebody in their household, support, or childcare bubbles, have symptoms of coronavirus.
- They have been identified as a close contact of a positive case of coronavirus through the NHS Test and Trace system and cannot come into school.

Individuals who display symptoms, or who receive a positive result from an LFD test, will be instructed to begin self-isolating immediately, will be advised to book a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test and to notify the school of the result as soon as possible. See the [Testing](#) section of this plan for information on accessing a test.

If an individual is sent home from school to self-isolate and receives a positive PCR test result, they must self-isolate for a full 10 days after the day their symptoms began. If they receive a negative test result, they may return to school, provided they are well and no-one else in their household is displaying coronavirus symptoms.

It is also important that if someone in an individual's household tests positive for coronavirus, the individual self-isolates for a full 10 days following the day of the onset of the symptomatic person's symptoms, or of the day of the positive test result if they are asymptomatic. The

individual must complete this 10-day period of self-isolation, even if they themselves receive a negative test result during this period.

The school will report any confirmed or suspected cases of coronavirus to the government through the education setting status form.

## **Testing**

To meet our duty to engage with the NHS Test and Trace process, we will ask that all members of our school understand that they should be ready and willing to:

- Book a PCR test if they are displaying symptoms of coronavirus.
- Provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they test positive or are contacted by NHS Test and Trace.
- Self-isolate for a full 10 days if they test positive for coronavirus.

## **Asymptomatic testing**

The school will ensure that all relevant individuals are informed of and understand the rapid-result asymptomatic programme. Participation in the rapid-result testing scheme is strictly voluntary, although the government strongly encourages eligible individuals to participate where possible. The school will require formal, prior consent from any individual participating in the programme, both to conduct the tests and for the school to record their data. If any individuals are concerned about their participation in the scheme, we ask that they discuss this with the headteacher. No individual will be required to undertake a rapid-result test in order to attend school.

Staff will continue to self-test with LFD tests twice per week at home, and must report their results to NHS Test and Trace as soon as each test is completed, either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the test kit. This applies whether the result is positive, negative or void. Staff will also be asked to share their results with their school to help with contact tracing. No pupils will undertake LFD testing.

## **Symptomatic testing**

### **Access to home testing kits**

The school has also received a supply of home testing PCR kits from the DfE. These will only be offered to individuals in the exceptional circumstance that we believe they may have barriers to accessing PCR testing elsewhere. For example, if we believe a self-isolating staff member is unable to access a test quickly, we will consider offering them a testing kit in order to facilitate their quick return to school – this return will depend on them testing negative and not having been in close contact with a confirmed positive case. We will ensure this testing kit is delivered to the self-isolating staff member in a manner which observes government health guidance on self-isolation, e.g. we may deliver the kit via post.

Additional testing kits will be ordered to the school if our supply is running low to ensure we always have emergency reserves, although our use of them will remain sparing. Testing kits will only be provided to adults over the age of 18, either for their own use or on behalf of their child. The kits will be stored securely at ambient room temperature (5-22°C).

Pupils and staff will be encouraged to access a PCR test themselves by visiting a testing site, ordering a test [online](#) or calling 119.

### **Test results**

For tests conducted outside of school, e.g. at testing centres, we will ask staff to inform us immediately of their test results. If a staff member tests negative, they feel well and no longer have symptoms, they may return to school. If they test positive, they will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days and return to school only once they do not have symptoms other than a cough, or a loss of or change in their sense of smell or taste.

If we are informed of a positive test result, we will contact the dedicated NHS advice service via the DfE Helpline on 0800 046 8687 as soon as possible. We will work with the NHS team of advisers to understand the action we need to take – including working with the local health protection team (HPT) if the situation is escalated. The situation will be monitored closely, and staff will be advised of our plans via email or letter.

To prepare for this possibility, we will be keeping a record of all pupils and staff members in each class, and any close contact that takes place between pupils and staff in other classes.

If we have two or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or experience an overall increase in symptom-related absences, we will work closely with the local HPT, which may result in larger numbers of pupils isolating at home as a precautionary measure.

### **NHS COVID-19 app**

The NHS COVID-19 app will be available to download for staff and for pupils aged 16 and over. The app alerts people who may have been exposed to coronavirus that they will need to either begin rapid-result testing or self-isolate.

The school has not changed its existing mobile phone policies as a result of the app.

The school asks that staff familiarise themselves with the six key features of the app, which are explained in government [guidance on the app](#). It is possible that the app could notify a member of staff that they are a close contact of a positive case while they are present on school premises, we ask all staff to be aware that in such an instance they are to inform the headteacher immediately.

We will consider what action to take in order to ensure continuity of education in the instance that several staff members are informed at the same time and begin self-isolating.

The headteacher will consider circumstances where the app's check-in feature will be used, alongside the creation of NHS QR posters, e.g. if we host an event with external guests on the premises, or if the premises are let out to external providers during out-of-school hours.

## **Personnel considerations**

### **Deployment**

The school will ensure that any alterations to staffing deployment are communicated to all affected individuals in a timely manner. Any proposed changes in role or responsibility will be

carried out in line with the school's safeguarding obligations to ensure that staff members have undergone the appropriate checks for the activity in question.

Supply staff and other temporary workers will be able to move between schools, but we will be considering ways to minimise the number of visits to school. If it is necessary to use supply staff and welcome visitors to the school, these individuals will be expected to comply with our arrangements for managing and minimising risk.

We will consider using longer assignments with supply teachers and the possibility of establishing a minimum number of hours across the academic year for supply and support staff.

We will consider the most effective ways to host ITT trainees, discussing options with the relevant ITT providers.

### **Leave**

All staff will need to be available to work in school during term-time.

We are aware that if staff choose to travel abroad over the school holidays, their return travel arrangements could be disrupted due to factors beyond their control in relation to coronavirus. We will take steps to establish whether any members of staff have pre-booked holiday which may lead to a need to quarantine.

Where it is not possible to avoid a member of staff having to quarantine during term-time, we will consider if it is possible to amend their working arrangements temporarily and enable them to work from home. If we are not able to amend working arrangements, we will make the necessary considerations surrounding pay.

We may consider using volunteers for support, particularly if some members of staff are temporarily unavailable. Where volunteers are used, we will continue to follow the usual checking and risk assessment processes, in line with our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

### **Recruitment**

We will continue with our usual recruitment processes, carrying out all pre-appointment checks and interviews in line with public health advice.

### **Staff training**

Training that was given to the staff prior to the school fully opening regarding the additional infection control measures, e.g. in relation to social distancing or remote learning, will be refreshed and updated when necessary.

Staff will be made aware of any changes to government guidance in all relevant areas as soon as possible.

### **Curriculum**

The school will ensure all pupils are given the support needed to make good academic progress, focussing in particular on pupils who may have been at increased risk of lost learning

during the pandemic, e.g. pupils with SEND, vulnerable pupils or otherwise disadvantaged pupils.

### **Catch-up support**

The school has developed a Coronavirus (COVID-19): Catch-up Funding Plan, which sets out how the school will allocate its catch-up funding, and its aims for the impact of this funding on supporting pupils' progress. This plan will be kept up-to-date with any announcements regarding changes to government catch-up funding, with any changes shared with all relevant stakeholders as soon as possible.

### **EYFS**

Where coronavirus restrictions prevent us from delivering the EYFS in full, we will refer to the government's disapplications of specific EYFS requirements.

EYFS staff will be encouraged to focus on identifying and addressing gaps in learning, particularly in key skills, e.g. language, early reading, phonic knowledge and mathematics. Personal, social, emotional and physical development may also be prioritised, to address areas of pupils' development that may have been most affected by partial closures.

### **Primary schools**

Staff will be encouraged to focus on identifying and addressing gaps in learning, particularly in key skills, e.g. phonics, reading, vocabulary acquisition, writing and mathematics. The curricula, however, will remain broad and ambitious, in line with our usual curricula planning.

### **Relationships education, RSE and health education**

We will begin delivering the appropriate statutory RSE and health education from the Summer term 2021, in line with our RSE and Health Education Policy.

Teachers will be trained to deliver content on mental health and wellbeing, and we will continue to support teachers in this delivery.

### **Music, dance and drama**

The school's music, dance and drama provision will continue, in line with the school-wide infection control and social distancing measures, and with appropriate additional mitigations in place.

Additional mitigations for these subjects include:

- Keeping accompanying music to levels which do not encourage staff or pupils to raise their voices unduly.
- Using microphones to reduce the need for shouting.
- Minimising the number of peripatetic teachers visiting the site at any one time.
- Playing instruments and singing in groups outdoors where possible.
- Using a sufficiently large room with good ventilation for playing instruments and singing in groups, if indoors.
- Only singing or playing wind and brass instruments in small groups.

- Using seating arrangements to position players and singers back-to-back or side-to-side where possible.
- Avoiding sharing equipment, including instruments and scores or scripts, where possible.
- Ensuring the cleaning of hired equipment is arranged with the supplier.

## **PE and sport**

PE and sport provision will continue, in line with the school-wide infection control and social distancing measures, and with appropriate additional mitigations in place. We will only provide team sports listed on the government's [‘Return to recreational team sport framework’](#).

Additional mitigations include:

- Thoroughly cleaning equipment between uses or quarantining items for 72 hours.
- Prioritising outdoor sports where possible.
- Maximising ventilation in areas where PE is taking place indoors.
- Only working with external coaches, clubs and organisations where we deem it safe to do so.

## **Remote education**

Any pupils unable to attend the school site when following public health advice, either shielding or self-isolating, will receive high-quality remote education in line with all the requirements set out in the school's Pupil Remote Learning Policy.

We will maintain information regarding our remote education offer on the school website, in line with our legal duties.

## **Behaviour**

### **Pupil behaviour**

The Behavioural Policy will account for social distancing rules and other expectations of pupils. The policy will also detail how these rules and expectations will be enforced, and the consequences for deliberate and persistent breaking of these rules, bearing in mind that some pupils will not understand the need for social distancing and may find the rules difficult to adhere to. Pupils and their parents will be informed about any changes to the Behavioural Policy.

We will work with any pupils who struggle to re-engage in school and are at risk of being persistently disruptive by providing support for overcoming barriers to behaviour and to help them reintegrate back into school life.

We will also work with the LA and other relevant authorities to ensure our provision for pupils with SEND supports them to have a smooth transition through the school's resumption of full provision, minimising any disruption where possible. Where pupils with complex needs are disrupted and this impacts on their behaviour, however, we will manage this with due sensitivity and use the behaviour to inform an improved support structure for these pupils during this time.

## **Expectations of staff**

Staff will be asked to make sure they have read the school's updated Behavioural Policy and know what role in it they are being asked to take.

We understand that following some of the infection control principles will be extremely challenging to follow and to enforce, so staff will not face any stringent action if they are unable to follow or enforce them at all times. If a staff member is unable to follow these principles, they should speak to their headteacher.

## **Safeguarding**

Ensuring safeguarding arrangements remain effective and updated in response to changes while the school transitions to opening fully is a key priority.

Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy will be updated determine whether it reflects the considerations relevant to the return of more pupils.

We will continue to ensure that:

- The best interests of pupils always come first.
- If anyone in the school has a safeguarding concern about a pupil, they act immediately.
- A DSL or deputy DSL is always available.
- Pupils who remain at home, e.g. due to self-isolation, are protected in line with the school's safeguarding obligations.
- The DSL and their deputies are given enough time to support pupils with new safeguarding concerns.
- The DSL coordinates referrals to children's social care and other relevant authorities where required.

## **Identifying and supporting newly vulnerable pupils**

We are aware that some pupils may have been at an increased risk of experiencing harm during the lockdown period, particularly as they may not have been seen by staff at the school or other agencies. Others may not have provided cause for concern before the lockdown period but have since experienced significant harm during their time at home – these pupils will form part of a newly vulnerable group.

We will continue to take steps to identify and support these pupils as they return to school, accounting for the fact that these pupils may include those that would not usually be considered 'at risk'.

The DSL and their team will be given time and support to enable them to organise and manage their workload effectively. This will include re-engaging with external agencies and ensuring staff, pupils and pupils' families are informed of any services whose work practices may have changed due to the lockdown period.

Safeguarding training will be refreshed for all staff to ensure everyone is able to respond appropriately to disclosures from pupils and identify signs that could indicate a pupil has experienced significant harm, e.g. changes in behaviour. This training will be provided in the

form of full school training, staff briefings and online courses. The training will reflect any updates included in 'Keeping children safe in education 2020' (KCSIE).

KCSIE includes a particular emphasis on mental health, which will be key to support for pupils at this time. The definition of safeguarding includes mental health explicitly. We will ensure staff are aware that it will take time for pupils to re-establish their relationships with staff and to process their experiences of lockdown. This means that it may take time before pupils are able to share their experiences. Staff will be reminded that **just because a disclosure is not immediate, it does not make it less valid or important.**

Pupils may also express any trauma they have experienced through their behaviour. We will ensure staff are aware of the link between safeguarding and mental health, emphasising that mental health issues can sometimes be indicators of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

A safe place will be provided for pupils to discuss concerns about their experiences of lockdown and make disclosures where necessary.

## **Wellbeing**

The school will be aware that members of the school community may have experienced overwhelming emotions during the coronavirus pandemic, potentially to a particularly sharp degree during the period of national lockdown.

One of the school's key priorities is ensuring the school community feels safe and supported.

We will continue to work with our LA to discuss the wider support services that are available and to secure services for additional support and early help where possible, and consider how these might apply to pupils who were not previously affected.

Our wellbeing lead will receive training as part of the government's [Wellbeing for Education Return programme](#). This individual will thereafter disseminate the learning and practice to staff and pupils within the school.

### **Establishing routines**

All staff will work together as a team to help pupils feel safe, understand the school's expectations and give them a sense of control.

Clear guidelines and expectations will be given to pupils for any routines in place at school. These will be adapted as required and any adaptations will be fully communicated to all members of the school community to ensure they know exactly what is expected of them and have a sense of control.

We understand the importance of positivity during this time and will ensure pupils leave the school every day with a positive mindset. This approach will help them to feel safe and look forward to being at school.

### **The environment**

Pupils may likely be experiencing a range of emotions, whether this is excitement or anxiety, so we will ensure they feel safe both physically and emotionally. Staff are working together to create a warm and welcoming environment which builds a sense of belonging despite the

necessity of social distancing measures. Safe areas have been created where pupils can spend time if they are feeling overwhelmed.

We understand that pupils will have experienced many overwhelming emotions during the coronavirus pandemic, and some may have faced loss and upset. We will ensure that an emotionally safe environment is fostered that nurtures and supports pupils and focusses on rebuilding and reconnecting.

### **Communication**

We promote a culture of communication and openness with all staff. All staff will be updated with any changes to the school's plans and what is expected of them, to ensure they feel well-informed, involved and valued.

As staff may not be able to connect in as they have previously due to social distancing etc, we will continue to consider ways staff can stay connected with one another to avoid any feelings of isolation.

We would like to encourage staff to first approach the headteacher to discuss any mental health concerns or wellbeing issues they may be experiencing.

The school also promotes an 'open-door policy', meaning we aim for all staff members to feel able and comfortable to approach leadership to discuss their concerns.

Pastoral staff are expected to continue to keep in touch with parents and make sure we know about any other relevant information about pupils' circumstances, e.g. bereavements, illnesses and family challenges.

### **Staff wellbeing and workload**

The governing board and headteacher will continue to have regard to staff work-life balance and wellbeing, understanding that some staff members may be particularly anxious during this time. We will ensure staff are aware of the measures we are putting in place to support them and that they are involved in this process.

Wellbeing surveys will continue to be conducted throughout the year to identify how staff are coping, concerns they have and any support they require from the school. These surveys will also be an opportunity for us to ask staff to raise any concerns with the current wellbeing support, and for them to offer any suggestions for improvement. School leaders will ensure they keep connected with staff, ensuring regular catchups are organised and utilised to understand how staff are coping.

Staff should be aware of the wellbeing sessions taking place to give staff strategies to deal with issues that may be affecting them. External support may form part of these sessions. Any sessions that take place will be made available online to ensure all members of staff can access them.

Daily staff briefings will be used to check in with each other, build the understanding of the team, share what is working, and discuss what practices may need adapting.

## **Bereavement**

Our school understands that some members of our community may have experienced loss due to coronavirus. We will ensure we have provisions in place to support these members of our school community.

The Bereavement Policy contains information regarding how bereavement support will be delivered. For pupils that remain at home because they are following public health or medical advice, the provisions outlined in the amendment to this policy will continue to be followed.

The headteacher is responsible for coordinating the school's bereavement support approach. They will consider and seek advice if needed on how best to support individuals that have been affected and talk to the individual about the following:

- Who they can go to for support both within the school and externally
- Who within the school community has been informed about the death
- Whether they would like a memorial to be set up within the school

## **Wellbeing team**

The headteacher has established a wellbeing team that will coordinate support. This includes staff members such as the SENCO and DSL, and other key members of staff and some pupils.

## **External support**

The following external agencies can provide extra support if required:

- GPs
- Early help referral teams
- Mental health charity, [Mind](#)
- Mental Health At Work's [Education Support helpline](#)
- Health Assured (through NYCC)
- Contact a [Samaritan](#)
- Your GP
- [Government advice](#) on protecting your mental health and wellbeing during the coronavirus pandemic

A live list that is regularly updated is available on the school website.

## **Uniform**

We will maintain our usual School Uniform Policy during the period of return to full provision. We will inform all parents of this arrangement, and ensure they are aware that school uniforms do not need to be cleaned more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned with any different methods to usual.

Where the weather is cooler over the Winter and early Spring months, we will permit pupils to bring additional warm clothing to school, which they can wear in classrooms that have become chilly as a result of increased ventilation.

## **School meals**

School meals, including FSM, will also return to full operation. FSM support will continue for eligible pupils who are not attending the school site due to public health advice, as has been the case during the national lockdown.

## **Before- and after-school care**

We will resume before- and after-school care for pupils, where that care supports parents to attend work, education and access medical care, and supports pupil to complete wider education and training. We will inform parents of these conditions and ensure that they understand that they should only use this provision in line with these circumstances.

Vulnerable pupils will have access to before- and after-school care regardless of the above conditions.

Some extra-curricular activities, such as music, dance, drama and sports clubs, will have additional measures to be implemented in order to run, e.g. no physical contact, appropriate social distancing, smaller groups than usual, and increased ventilation.

The following before- and after-school clubs will be restarted from 8<sup>th</sup> March:

- Breakfast Club
- Gilly's Club (from 3.30-5.30pm)

Other clubs will only be restarted when it is safe to do so and parents will be kept up to date via the newsletter. The relevant staff members will be informed of any changes.

We will ensure that in any instances of external coaches etc, the providers are operating in line with the government guidance for their sector and have the appropriate infection control measures in place.

## **Transport**

The school will encourage staff and pupils to walk or cycle to school, or be dropped off by a member of their household, where possible. We will encourage our school community to avoid public transport; however, if individuals need to use public transport to get to school, we will advise them to avoid peak times and follow guidelines on social distancing and wearing protective clothing, e.g. face coverings.

Local Authority taxis will run and the school will contact the transport provider to ensure they can support the appropriate infection control measures onboard the service.

## **Educational visits**

The school will only resume educational visits once government advice changes, and only in accordance with their insurer's requirements.

## **Premises management**

### **Ventilation**

To help reduce the spread of coronavirus, focus will be placed on maintaining general ventilation in the school in line with the HSE's [guidance](#). We will consider ways to maintain and increase the supply of fresh air, e.g. by opening windows and doors.

In the interests of safety, fire doors will not be propped open.

### **The site manager's responsibility**

The site manager will be responsible for ensuring that all necessary actions are taken in order to ensure that the buildings are kept safe.

Insurers will be notified of any changes that are made to the premises that they need to be aware of.

## **Exams and assessments**

As all statutory assessments have been cancelled, the school will ensure that teachers prepare some form of informal assessment of pupils for the Summer term, in order to monitor pupils' progress, identify any issues and support transitions where applicable.

## **Ofsted inspections**

The school will ensure it is prepared for an Ofsted inspection of any form, including a remote monitoring inspection if applicable. Whilst routine, graded inspections are not expected to resume until the Summer term, we will continue to review our practices and policies to make sure we are prepared for that time. We will also ensure all staff are informed as soon as possible in the event that a monitoring inspection is planned at the school, or in the event that Ofsted updates its inspection expectations.

## **Contingency planning**

The school has a Contingency Plan in place in preparation for the event that further coronavirus restrictions are brought in for schools. This document will be kept up-to-date with any relevant changes in government guidance, and shared with all relevant stakeholders. The plan will operate in conjunction with the school's Pupil Remote Learning Policy.

## **Communication**

Our plans for the return to full provision and all associated procedures will be communicated to all relevant stakeholders, including pupils, parents, staff, governors, visitors, suppliers and contractors.

Parents will be informed of:

- The protective steps the school is taking to ensure pupils are safe.
- New timetable arrangements, including start and finish times.

- The processes for drop-off and collection.
- Recommendations in terms of transport to and from the school.
- Safety measures that will be in place, e.g. social distancing.
- Expectations of pupils in terms of behaviour and attendance.

These arrangements will be communicated via letter. Parents will be expected to share this information with their children.

Staff will be informed of all relevant plans, including infection control measures, timetable changes or changes to their role and expectations of them, and will be given the opportunity to address any specific concerns. Staff meetings and training days will take place before the school opens, to take staff through all of the arrangements. Staff will be engaged regularly to get their feedback on the arrangements that are in place.

We will ensure that all contractors and suppliers are prepared to support our plans.

Cleaning staff and contractors will be informed of the new infection control requirements and additional time for these to be completed will be agreed.

## **Monitoring and review**

This plan will be reviewed continually by the headteacher and other relevant members of staff in line with guidance from the government and PHE.

Any changes to the plan will be communicated to all relevant stakeholders.