

Covid-19 Planning Principles

Autumn Winter Plan

2021-2022



Trust Autumn Winter strategy planning principles

As a result of the government's August 2021 announcements and associated revised guidance for schools, the Trust has reviewed its covid-19 response planning principles to ensure government, PHE and HSE guidance continues to be fully implemented. This will ensure schools can continue over the Autumn/Winter 2021-22 as safely as possible.

For note:

The Trust will continue to implement the PHE system of controls (the musts) and the Trust's revised *Outbreak Management Plan* through its *Autumn Winter Plan 2021-22*

The Trust remains fully committed to the following underpinning planning principles:

- The safety, welfare and ongoing education of pupils and staff remains the Trust's paramount principle for all planning.
- Schools will organise themselves in ways that are fully compliant with the Public Health England *System of Controls, Education Contingency Framework*, Trust *Autumn Winter Plan* and *Outbreak Management Plan*.
- In all risk assessments schools will keep the HSE *Hierarchy of Controls* under review
- Schools will have robust monitoring systems in place to ensure control measures continue to be effectively implemented
- The Trust and schools will make decisions that meet the response needs of local communities, in line with advice from local public health teams and will act at pace as and when required.

To ensure the Trust and its schools function safely and effectively, providing a broad curriculum as well as remote education to those required to self-isolate, the Trust is continuing to work closely with all schools. This collaborative approach ensures planning, systems and processes are universally implemented as the pandemic continues to impact. This supports the Trust and its schools to be confident that the safeguarding of children, staff and parents is as secure as possible and all reasonable precautions have been taken for safe learning whether at school or home.

Trust Autumn Winter Plan 2021-22

The Trust's *Autumn Winter Plan* is driven by a detailed risk assessment which continues to have 9 work-strands. These form the basis of planning and are supported by the principles set out above. All Trust covid-19 documents have been developed following detailed consideration of the full range of government guidance as well as information and evidence presented from other external sources e.g. professional associations and union advice. The work-strands are:

Work-strand One:	Maintaining oversight - System of Controls (THE MUSTS)
Work-strand Two:	School Operations, Infection Control and Management
Work-strand Three:	Curriculum, Behaviour and Pastoral Support
Work-strand Four:	Assessment and Accountability
Work-strand Five:	Staff Safety and Wellbeing
Work-strand Six:	Communication and Information Sharing
Work-strand Seven:	Finance and Resourcing

Work-strand Eight: Leadership, governance, safeguarding + contingency planning

Work-strand Nine: **RISK REGISTER AND ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST**

Outcome drivers

The *Autumn Winter Plan* shapes the Trust's actions and is monitored using three fundamental outcome drivers:

- A safe learning environment
- Safe children and families
- A safe workforce

Across all three areas, the Trust will adopt a **TEST, LEARN, REVIEW** model to ensure that plans are kept under constant scrutiny and are flexible enough to be adapted quickly if required.

	A Safe Environment
1.	The Trust and its schools will continue to work together as one organisation to facilitate shared planning, systems, and processes. No school will act on its own.
2.	Ongoing actions will be managed with extreme caution and care so that the whole Trust community are confident that all necessary protective measures have been put in place for both face to face and online learning.
3.	The Trust will continue to implement the Public Health England (PHE) System of Controls and HSE Hierarchy of Controls as appropriate
4.	In line with government requirements, Trust leaders and headteachers will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the new guidance to support Step 4 of the government's Roadmap.
5.	School leaders know the unique circumstances of their schools and, working within the overarching Trust Plan, may need to adapt actions following their own risk assessment and review of context.
6.	All schools will follow shared systems and processes to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a strong curriculum• continued provision for remote education• on-line safety for all pupils• support for parents/carers• effective infection protection and controls• effective risk management and mitigation• maintained robust cleaning schedules• maintained hygiene practices• appropriate PPE equipment as required• effective management of pupils/staff who fall ill on site• safe fire evacuation and lockdown processes
7.	The Trust and school leaders will continue to work with local public health teams to understand and respond to the local context (<i>Outbreak Management Plan</i>)
8.	All planning will continue to consider impact for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV), clinically vulnerable (CV), pregnant staff and those who are vulnerable for other reasons e.g. health status, race, and disability etc.

Safe Children and Families	
1.	School leaders will continue to keep under review how pupils enter and leave school premises to avoid unnecessary crowding and gatherings of parents.
2.	Content and timing of communications to parents will be planned across the Trust so common messages are provided regularly.
3.	Safeguarding practices will remain under constant review by all schools with continued compliance with updated KCSIE 2021 especially Annex D with regard to safe pupil on-line practices.
5.	Behaviour policies and practices will reflect the Trust's <i>Autumn Winter Plan</i> drivers and support the reduction of risk as far as possible. Individual pupil risk assessments will be kept under regular review for pupils where there is concern about their capacity to adhere to safe practices.
6.	The Trust and its schools will continue to work together to develop and implement a strong and broad curriculum programme across EYFS, KS1 and KS2.
7.	The physical and organisational structures needed to limit risk will be kept under review and will continue to recognise the individual context of each school site and the numbers of pupils in attendance.
8.	Alongside pupil safety, planning will continue to include mental health, pastoral and wider wellbeing support for pupils and staff e.g. bereavement support, anxiety, and trauma. This will include support for parents/carers.
9.	Pupils who are unable to attend school will be provided with a digital device if they meet eligibility requirements in order to access remote education.
A Safe Workforce	
1.	The safety and wellbeing of staff will always remain a paramount consideration in all ongoing planning to maintain covid-safe practices.
2.	The content and timing of formal staff communications and briefing sessions will be agreed by Trust leaders and headteachers together.
3.	Staff recognised through previous risk assessments as CEV, CV or pregnant will continue to be supported in line with government guidance. Individual risk assessments will be reviewed as appropriate.
4.	Staff will continue to adhere fully to statutory safeguarding guidance as set out in <i>Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 (KCSIE)</i> and associated Trust safeguarding procedures. The area of on-line pupil safety will remain a key focus.
5.	All staff will receive ongoing training in order to be clear about new arrangements and to implement them confidently and successfully.
6.	Staff and senior leader workload pressures will be kept under review regularly as the return to school progresses.
7.	Any changes in leadership roles and responsibilities under the <i>Autumn Winter Plan</i> arrangements will be disseminated clearly to all staff.

Signed:



Trust CEO

Date: September 2021