



## **COVID-19 Policy 2021** **From 17<sup>th</sup> May**

### **Introduction**

Annemount School offers a continued commitment to the safety and wellbeing of its pupils, staff and the parent community. The safety of the pupils and staff is of the utmost priority.

From 8 March 2021, people in England saw restrictions start to lift as the government's four-step roadmap offers a route back to a more 'normal life'.

During this period Annemount School followed a strict Covid-19 Policy and Risk Assessment.

From 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021, as the country begins step 3 of the 4-step process in exiting the Lockdown, the school Risk Assessment now allows for more mixed class group activities and a relaxation to its previous stricter policy.

The success of the vaccination programme is one factor identified by the school. By 17<sup>th</sup> May, over 90% of full-time staff will have received a Covid-19 vaccination.

The school community have also risen to the challenge of suppressing COVID-19 within the community: by obeying the law, getting tested when needed, isolating when required, regular asymptomatic testing for staff, and following the 'hands, face, space' and 'letting fresh air in' government guidance.

Essential measures continue to remain in place:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home;
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene;
- enhanced cleaning arrangements;
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace;
- adults working in the building are offered the opportunity to take part in regular asymptomatic lateral-flow testing.

The COVID-19 outbreak may have caused significant mental health or wellbeing difficulties for some children. It is important to recognise that while "getting back to normal" is important and will be reassuring for many, the school is committed to supporting the wellbeing of all its pupils as a priority.

The school understands that *such young children cannot be expected to fully socially distance* according to the government recommendations and *neither the school nor its staff can guarantee this*.

### **The School Environment**

#### **Cleaning**

The school employs a professional cleaning company to undertake the daily clean at the end of each school day.

The cleaning team is dedicated to ensuring the school premises meets with the measures set out in the *protective measures in education and childcare settings government guidance*. The aim is for the school to be secure in the knowledge that pupils, employees and visitors are learning and working in a safe, meticulously clean environment.



Where necessary, the school also continues to be treated with Clorox 360 Sanitisation to aid the prevention of the spread of COVID-19.

### The Classrooms

Classrooms must remain well ventilated. Ventilation around the school has increased by opening windows and garden doors throughout the building. Teachers are responsible for ensuring their classrooms are well ventilated throughout the day.

## **School Timetable**

### Drop Off and Collection Times

Staggered morning start times and end of day times will be in place, so that arrival and pick up times are not overcrowded outside the school. A one-way system outside the front of the school during drop-off and pick-up times must be observed. Two metre distance guidelines on the pathways outside the school for pupils and parents to line up when entering the school are also in place.

### Offerings

The school will re-evaluate offerings each term in accordance with the current government guidelines. The Department for Education asks that schools ***teach an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects from the start of the Autumn Term, but make use of existing flexibilities to create time to cover the most important missed content*** for the academic year 2020-2021.

## **Keeping Safe**

### Social Distancing Guidelines

The school will now act as one bubble.

In the event a member of the immediate school community tests positive for Covid-19 the Head and Deputy along with those immediate involved will run a risk assessment similar to that of NHS Test and Trace and where necessary ask those who had close contact with the positive person to self-isolate.

### Staff Room

Teaching staff are advised to continue to socially distance during their lunch breaks and during whole school staff meetings. This should take place in a ventilated room and staff should aim to remain 2 metres from other staff members.

### Morning Greetings

Normally the children are expected to say good morning to the teacher welcoming them in the lobby each morning by shaking hands and making eye contact. Sadly, shaking hands during this time is prohibited.

### Visitors

The Volunteers and Visitors Policy remains in place. In addition to this, visitors will only be permitted by advance arrangement and declaration of good health. Visitors will be asked to continue to follow any government guidelines.

### Washing Hands and Hygiene

Pupils must come to school with clean hands and short nails. Pupils will continue to adhere to a handwashing programme throughout the day. Washing hands thoroughly for 20 seconds (singing Happy Birthday twice) with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly. Hand washing is particularly important upon arrival to school, before and after eating and after sneezing or coughing. Pupils and staff will be asked to wash hands or apply hand sanitiser upon entering the school building.



Additional handwashing facilities have been made available to pupils. Soap, warm and cold water, paper towels, hand dryers as well as alcohol hand sanitiser are all available and will be part of our strict hand washing education programme.

The school continues to promote the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach when coughing, sneezing and blowing noses.

#### Staff Personal Protective Equipment

Staff at Annemount have been offered Personal Protective Equipment in the form of latex gloves, disposable aprons, face masks, face shields, protective glasses and alcohol hand sanitiser. The staff team have been offered a full induction and training on the protective equipment available to them.

The government recommendation is for teachers not to wear face masks, however in the event that intimate care may be required, masks and PPE may be used.

#### **Illness, Contamination and Shielding**

The school illness policy remains in place. Nobody should come into the school if they are unwell or have been unwell in the previous 24 hours. The school may send a child home if there is any doubt about a child's wellness.

#### Illness Policy in relation to COVID-19

Nobody will be allowed in school if they show signs of COVID-19. This may include:

- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual); or
- loss of taste or smell.

It is understood that as more is learnt more about the virus, new signs and symptoms may be revealed. If this is the case, the school will continue to keep families informed and updated. As a general rule of thumb, anyone with any cold-like symptoms should remain at home. Those that show symptoms will be asked to self-isolate at home and get tested for COVID-19.

#### Asymptomatic lateral-flow testing

Staff take part in regular asymptomatic testing. The recommendation is that testing is carried out by all staff twice a week, 3 to 4 days apart, before coming into the workplace.

#### NHS Test and Trace

Anyone who displays symptoms of COVID-19 must get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing coronavirus website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/> or ordered by telephone via NHS 119. Essential workers, which includes staff members have priority access to testing. The Test and Trace process requires a patient to provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if tests results are positive for COVID-19.

#### Testing positive for COVID-19

Those who have tested positive for COVID-19 will not be allowed to return to school until they have self-isolated at home for 10 full days and all symptoms have disappeared. Fellow house members should self-isolate for 10 days. Affected staff and pupils will be allowed to return to school only upon the Principal's agreement. The school has the right to ask a pupil or staff member to remain home for longer if deemed necessary.



### Households

If a member of a pupil or staff member's household shows signs of or tests positive for COVID-19, then all members of the household must remain home until the member of household has been tested. In the event they test positive, all members of the household must remain home for 10 days from the day after contact with the individual tested positive. Once this self-isolation period is over, the Principal will agree if it is acceptable to return to school.

### Presenting with symptoms during the school day

The school has a fully equipped Sick Bay and will be used for non-COVID-19 suspected illness. COVID-19 symptomatic patients will be attended to in the Music Room on the ground floor.

### Tracking and Limiting Contamination

In the event that a pupil, staff member or a member of their household develops symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, the school must be notified immediately. The school will run a risk assessment of all those who may have been at risk of contamination. The school adheres to a confidentiality code of practice and will not release any names in this event. It may be the case that a pupil is asked to self-isolate for 10 days after coming into contact with an individual who tested positive.

Other household members of that wider class do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with in that class subsequently develops symptoms.

### An Outbreak

If the school has two or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where COVID-19 is suspected, this may be classified as an outbreak and the school will work with the local Public Health England protection team (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contacts-phe-health-protection-teams>) who will advise if additional action is required.

### Home Learning Programme

In the event a pupil, class group or the entire school are advised to self-isolate or stay at home due to a COVID-19 outbreak, a home learning programme will be offered. Details of any Home Learning Programme will be shared as and when.

### Travel

The school follows government guidance relating to travel restrictions outside of the UK and associated quarantines with respect to both staff and parent/pupil travel.

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Review: 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021