



COVID-19 Policy 2021

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.

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;
- adults working in the building are offered the opportunity to take part in regular asymptomatic lateral-flow testing.
- adults working in the building are encouraged to take the vaccine.

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.



Keeping Safe

Social Distancing Guidelines

The school will 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 and inform parents of next steps as and when necessary.

Visitors

The Volunteers and Visitors Policy remains in place. In addition to this, visitors will only be permitted by arrangement in advance, declaration of good health and completion of a Lateral Flow Test. Visitors will be asked to wear a mask and 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.

Illness, Contamination and Shielding

The school illness policy remains in place. The school recommends that any child who is not feeling 100% well or has needed Calpol before school, stay at home to rest until completely better.

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 before coming into the workplace.



Testing positive for COVID-19

Those who have tested positive for COVID-19 will not be allowed to return to school and must follow current government self-isolation guidelines. 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.

Presenting with symptoms during the school day

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

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 or staff member is asked to take a test initially or for a given number of days after the exposure.

An Outbreak

If the school has several 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. The school may also seek advice from UKHSA advice service on 0800 046 8687.

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 the Home Learning Programme will be re-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: January 2022

Review: April 2022