

Abbey Court School Outbreak management plan

This plan will only come into operation in response to recommendations from the Local Authority or public health advice and if this occurs parents will be advised by the school. The guidance (DFE July 2021) states that, "Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education can have on children and young people, any measures in schools and colleges should only ever be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum number of settings or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible. Central government may offer local areas of particular concern an enhanced response package to help limit increases in transmission."

1. Introduction

This plan is based on the contingency framework for managing local outbreaks of COVID-19, provided by the Department for Education (DfE). The outbreak management plans outlines how the school will respond if there is an outbreak in school or the local area.

Abbey Court will only implement some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by the local authority (LA), director of public health (DsPH), Public Health England (PHE) health protection team or the national government.

It may be necessary to implement these measures in the following circumstances, for example:

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school
- If COVID-19 infection rates in the community are extremely high, and other measures have failed to reduce transmission
- As part of a package of measures responding to a COVID-19 variant of concern.

If the school has 2 children, pupils, students and staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period, this could mean that there is an 'outbreak'. The school will call the dedicated advice service* who will escalate the issue to the local health protection team where necessary and advise if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of this outbreak management plan.

*Call the DfE helpline on 0800 046 8687 and selecting option 1 for advice on the action to take in response to a positive case.

2. Shielding

Abbey Court will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding.

Abbey Court will speak to individuals required to shield about additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning and agree an individual risk assessment.

3. Other measures

If recommended, Abbey Court will limit:

- Educational visits
- Open days
- Transition or taster days
- Visitors coming into school
- Large group events
- Hydrotherapy, Rebound Therapy, Tonto and Singing

4. Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions for pupils will only be recommended as a last resort. If recommended, Abbey Court will implement the measures in this section.

4.1 Eligibility to remain in school

As a response the school may need to consider the closure of individual classes, Key stages, sites or the whole school

- In the first instance the school would look towards:

A temporary re-implementation of class bubbles

- If further restrictions are needed, providing enough staff are well and available, Abbey Court will stay open for:

Vulnerable pupils

Children of critical workers

4.2 Education and support for pupils at home

All other pupils will be required to stay at home and will receive remote education.

Abbey Court will aim to deliver remote education that meets the same quality and quantity of education that pupils would receive in school, as outlined in our home learning policy

The school will continue to provide lunch provision for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines.

4.3 Safeguarding

Abbey Court has reviewed the child protection policy to make sure it remains effective.

There will always be a trained Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or deputy DSL available when the school is open.

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