

RA 029A School Opening COVID 19 v2 17th August 2021



Greasby Infant School	Date assessment Undertaken:	Assessment undertaken
Barker Lane, Greasby, Wirral	28.8.21	by : Jeanne Fairbrother
CH49 3NX		J. Hall
Activity or situation: Schools Opening September 2021	Review date: Half termly review or as appropriate	Signature: J. Hall

Background information

School Opening

DfE guidance for schools during the coronavirus COVID 19 pandemic has been that schools are required to have a full school opening risk assessment which is regularly reviewed and updated, treating them as 'living documents', as the circumstances in your school and the public health advice changes. This includes having active arrangements in place to monitor whether the controls are effective and working as planned.

This risk assessment applies to:

- primary schools
- secondary schools (including sixth forms)
- special schools, special post-16 providers and alternative provision
- 16 to 19 academies
- infant, junior, middle, upper schools

Guidance

This risk assessment has regard to all relevant guidance and legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010
- The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013
- Public Health England (PHE) (2017) 'Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities'
- NEW DfE (2021) 'Schools COVID-19 operational guidance' July 2021
- UPDATED DfE (2021) 'Actions for early years and childcare settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak'
- DfE (2021) 'Face coverings in education'

• **UPDATED** 'Actions for out of school settings' July 2021

See **UPDATED** section.

Legislation and guidance

Health and Safety at Work Act etc. 1974 Management of H&S at Work Regulations 1999 Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 DfE Actions for schools plus associated COVID 19 Guidance Public Health England Guidance

N.B. All risk assessments referred to within this document have been revised and are available on our website www.jeannefairbrotherassociates.com

1) Hazard / Activity	2) Who can be harmed and how?	3) What controls exist to reduce the risk? Have you followed the hierarchy of controls (eliminate, substitute etc)?	Risk Score Consequence X Likelihood	4) Any further action. This should be included in the action plan (5), below
Failure to assess the risks of COVID 19 transmission in school.	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 School has assessed the reasonably foreseeable risks of transmission of COVID 19 The risk assessment is regularly reviewed as circumstances in school and the public health advice changes. School monitors whether the controls in place are effective. 	3X2=6	
Failing to have adequate outbreak management/contingency plans to allow for stepping measures up and down.	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 School has a Coronavirus (COVID-19) Contingency Plan risk assessment. See RA 029B Contingency plan latest version (also known as an outbreak management plan) if restrictions need to be implemented due to COVID 19. Remote education plans are in place for pupils who are self-isolating or shielding. School will call the DfE helpline on 0800 046 8687 selecting option 1 for advice on the action to take in response to a positive case 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 the outbreak management plan. 	3X2=6	

		 School will follow measures recommended by the Local Authority, Director of Public Health and local protection teams (HPTs) as part of the outbreak management responsibilities. Wirral schools contact Wirral LA Covid helpline 0151 666 3600 Email: covidschoolsupport@wirral.gov.uk From the date that school officially closes for summer, all MDS submissions will stop. From that point, Public Health and the Local Authority will be informed of any outbreaks via NHS T&T. 		
Communication	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 School follows latest DfE, PHE & Gov.uk, Merseyside & Cheshire PH Team and LA guidance RA 029A School opening COVID 19 v1 Aug 2021 published to website & shared with unions, LA & governors. Clear communication sent to parents and pupils with a link on the school website covering all aspects of how school will function. Regular staff briefings held to cover any changes to arrangements. School has shared with all staff the measures in place and involved staff & the governing body in that process. A record is kept of all visitors and contractors that come to the school site. 	3X2=6	Share up to date RA and FAQ 25.8.21 with all staff Write to parents on 1.9.21 with latest guidance update
Wellbeing - staff & pupils	Staff & pupils exposed to mental health issues due to COVID 19	 Staff are vigilant in discerning pupil mental health and report any concerns to the Headteacher. The school provides opportunities for pupils to talk about their mental health and experiences during the pandemic through the Jigsaw PHSE programme and weekly sessions. Pupils have access to pastoral support and activities, e.g. opportunities to renew and develop friendships. Pupil and parent surveys are sent out to assess how they feel about being on the school site and to enable staff to act on any concerns pupils and parents may have. Staff surveys are sent out to assess how they feel about 	2X2=4	

		 being on the school site and enable the SLT and Governing Body to act on any concerns staff EAP is available for all staff as required Staff Wellbeing Team will be used to plan and organise a variety of staff wellbeing activities throughout the year. 	
Face coverings	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. School will support any staff members, pupils or students that wish to continue to wear a face covering. Face coverings should be worn in enclosed and crowded places - this includes on school & public transport. Face coverings will be reintroduced if there is an outbreak in school or if the Director of Public Health advises that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by pupils, staff, and visitors, unless exempt). Face visors or shields are not worn as an equivalent alternative to face coverings; however, they can be worn by those exempt from wearing face coverings. School outbreak management plans cover the possibility of face coverings being reintroduced: transparent face coverings can also be worn. face visors or shields can be worn only after carrying out a risk assessment for the specific situation and should always be cleaned appropriately. School will not prevent individuals from entering or attending school if they are not wearing a face covering, if exempt. School has a supply of face coverings available Clear instructions are provided on how to put on, remove, 	2x2=4
PPE	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 store, and dispose of face coverings. Most staff in education, childcare and children's social care settings will not require PPE in response to COVID-19 beyond what they would normally need for their work. Additional PPE for COVID-19 is only required in a very 	2x2=4

		 limited number of scenarios: If a child, young person or student becomes ill with COVID 19 symptoms and only if close contact is necessary When working with pupils who cough, spit, vomit or require intimate care but do not have coronavirus symptoms, staff only wear PPE that would routinely be worn. Staff are trained in correct use and disposal of PPE. 		
School fails to ensure good hygiene & cleaning standards in school to reduce risk of transmission.	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 School will continue to ensure that staff & pupils maintain high standards of hand hygiene. Suitable facilities are provided for individuals to wash/sanitise their hands regularly Pupils are supervised, where appropriate, to use hand sanitizer safely. Respiratory hygiene School emphasises the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach with bins & tissues available. Cleaning School will maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents with a focus on frequently touched areas. Appropriate cleaning schedules are in place and include regular cleaning of areas and equipment ✓ Enhanced cleaning schedule in place -more frequent cleaning of rooms and shared areas. ✓ Contact points and frequently touched surfaces are being cleaned more frequently. ✓ All shared equipment e.g. photocopier, guillotine, telephone will be cleaned before and after use 	3x2=6	Ensure "catch it, bin it, kill it" posters are visible around school Caretaker and cleaners to check supplies and maintain stocks informing MF if orders need to be made.

Social distancing - failing to manage mixing and 'bubbles.'	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 Staff and pupils are informed they no longer need to adhere to social distancing measures in school unless directed. Pupils are informed they no longer need to be separated into bubbles in school. In the event of a school or local outbreak, the school adheres to the advice of a director of public health, which may include returning to social distancing measures, including pupil bubbles. School has planned carefully following the latest DfE/PHE guidance and will follow all measures at a steady pace, reviewing at the end of September. Assemblies can be reintroduced again, but school will reintroduce this gradually and no whole school singing initially. Hymn practice will take place in year groups until half term. Staggered starts, lunch and breaks to limit numbers do not need to take place. Normal opening and closing procedures will resume. Staff do not need to work with only one group/bubble Staff meetings/briefings will initially continue to take place in the school hall (larger, well-ventilated space). The staffroom will be available for all staff, but it is expected that staff will be sensible and respect others personal space. Meetings will continue to be a mixture of virtual and face to face as appropriate. School has outbreak management plans in place to reintroduce bubbles temporarily if it becomes necessary due 	3X2=6
Ventilation - failure to ensure all occupied spaces are well ventilated.	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 When school is in operation, it is well ventilated with comfortable teaching environments. When holding events where visitors are on site e.g. school plays, ventilation is increased. School opens external windows, doors & internal doors (if they are not fire doors and where safe to do so) to increase ventilation. 	3X2=6

		 During colder weather, the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature is balanced; opening higher vents, arranging seating away from draughts. In cooler weather to reduce thermal discomfort caused by increased ventilation, pupils can wear additional, suitable indoor items of clothing in addition to their usual uniform Purging or airing rooms as frequently as possible to improve ventilation usually when the room is unoccupied. Classroom windows to be fully opened during break and lunchtimes. Outside space will be used, where practical. See The Health and Safety Executive guidance on air conditioning and ventilation during the coronavirus outbreak & CIBSE COVID advice provides more information. 	
[UPDATED] NHS Test & Trace - School failing to manage tracing close contacts	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 School makes staff aware that it is not responsible for Test and Trace contacting. This will be taken over by the NHS Test and Trace service NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. School may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts (as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases). School will continue to work with the local director of Public Health & local HP Teams (Jane Harvey, Assistant Director: Consultant in Public Health, Wirral Council E: laneharvey2@wirral.gov.uk For public health enquiries: wirralpublichealth@wirral.gov.uk) in the case of a local outbreak and if the area becomes an Enhanced Support Area. Anyone in school who displays symptoms is encouraged to get a PCR test Staff, pupils and parents are made aware that they are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as 	3X2=6

		someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone		
		with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:		
		 they are fully vaccinated 		
		 they are fully vaccinated they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months 		
		 they have taken part in or are currently part of an 		
		approved COVID-19 vaccine trial		
		 they are not able to get vaccinated for medical 		
		reasons		
		 Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and 		
		young people aged under 18 years 6 months who		
		usually attend school, and have been identified as a		
		close contact, should continue to attend school as		
		normal.		
		 Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, 		
		informed they have been in close contact with a positive		
		case and advised to take a PCR test. School will encourage		
		all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.		
		Whilst awaiting the result of a PCR test		
		 Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and 		
		young people aged under 18 years 6 months who		
		usually attend school, and have been identified as a		
		close contact, continue to attend school as normal.		
		• They do not need to wear a face covering within the school,		
		but it is expected and recommended that these are worn		
		when travelling on public or dedicated transport.		
Asymptomatic testing	Staff, pupils, visitors,	NB. Testing guidance is under review.	2x2=4	
	contractors increased risk	School makes clear that testing is voluntary.		
	of transmission of COVID 19	Staff in all education settings are encouraged to test twice		
		weekly at home until the testing guidance is reviewed in		
		September.		
		Staff to test prior to returning to school on 1 st September		
		and notify the Headteacher if positive.		
		 Testing kits are stored securely in school at the correct 		
		temperature.		
		 A test kit log is in use and data held is stored in line with the 		
		school's Data Protection Policy .		
		Confirmatory PCR tests		
		- Communication y i dividende		

		•	Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19 & self-isolate until they get the result. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the individual can return to school if they do not have COVID-19 symptoms.		
School fails to follow public health advice on managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	•	Parents are informed via email and on the school website of how the school responds to confirmed cases of coronavirus School follows local public health advice and the headteacher contacts the DFE Helpline/local HP Team advice line immediately in the event of a positive test to carry out a rapid risk assessment and identify appropriate next steps. If the school has two or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus is suspected, the school continues to work with the DfE's dedicated coronavirus advice service (or local HPT if the case is escalated).	3X2=6	
Contact with potential or confirmed coronavirus cases in school	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	•	If anyone in the school develops coronavirus symptoms while at school, this is managed in line with local and national guidance. They are: o sent home to isolate for 10 days (includes the day symptoms started). o advised to follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection. o advised to arrange a PCR test as soon as possible. If a pupil is awaiting collection, they will be left in a well-ventilated room on their own if possible and, if safe to do so.	3X2=6	

	1		
		Appropriate PPE will used if close contact is necessary.	
		Anyone with symptoms is advised not to use public	
		transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member	
		of their family or household.	
		Any rooms used are cleaned thoroughly after they have left.	
		Anyone who comes into contact with a symptomatic	
		individual washes their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds	
		with soap and warm running water or hand sanitiser.	
		Staff members or pupils who have been in close contact	
		with someone with symptoms do not need to self-isolate	
		unless they develop symptoms.	
		School can take the decision if a parent or carer insists	
		on a pupil attending, to refuse the pupil, if in its	
		reasonable judgement the pupil poses a risk of infection to	
		the school community.	
Pregnant staff inadequate	Staff, pupils, visitors,	An individual risk assessment is carried out for pregnant	3X2=6
measures in place	contractors increased risk	staff with appropriate risk mitigation in line with the latest	
	of transmission of COVID 19	recommendations from DHSC, PHE & RCOG. See RA 026	
		New & Expectant member of staff.	
		Pregnant staff of any gestation are not required to continue	
		working on site if this is not supported by the separate risk	
		assessment.	
		Staff who are 28 weeks pregnant and beyond, or are are proposed and have an analysis a health condition that muta-	
		pregnant and have an underlying health condition that puts	
		them at a greater risk of severe illness from coronavirus at any gestation, are supported to take a more precautionary	
		approach.	
		 The school ensures pregnant staff are able to adhere to any 	
		active national guidance on social distancing and/or advice	
		for pregnant women considered to be clinically extremely	
		vulnerable.	
		The above principles on protecting pregnant staff also apply	
		to pregnant pupils.	
		Pregnant staff are encouraged to get vaccinated if possible.	
CEV staff inadequate	Staff, pupils, visitors,	Clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) staff are no longer	2X2=4
measures in place.	contractors increased risk	advised to shield but are encouraged to take extra	
	•		

	of transmission of COVID 19	 precautions to protect themselves, and to follow the practical steps set out in the CEV guidance to minimise their risk of exposure to the virus. CEV currently encouraged & supported to attend work An individual risk assessment is in place for all CEV staff. Staff who live with those who are CEV attend the workplace but should ensure they follow the system of controls in place. 	
CEV pupil's school has inadequate measures in place.	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 All CEV pupils and students attend unless they are one of the very small number of pupils under paediatric or other specialist care and their GP or clinician has advised them not to attend. Pupils and students who live with someone who is CEV continue to attend school as normal. School liaises with the parents of CEV pupils, if identified, an individual risk assessment is completed. The school collaborates with the LA to ensure that alternative arrangements for CEV pupils are in place to prepare for the event that the school site is required to close. We do not currently have any CEV pupils 	3X2=6
Educational visits	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 Educational visits will be conducted in line with the government's roadmap. This includes system of controls and the COVID-19 secure measures in place at the destination. A thorough risk benefit assessment is made via Evolve for all educational visits to ensure they can be undertaken safely including adventurous activities, local visits, day trips & sports fixtures. School will ensure it is prepared to carry out domestic day trips Pupils are allowed on trips to outdoor public places and do not need to be restricted to limits on gatherings, provided: The staff: child ratios are maintained. A risk assessment is conducted in advance. Good hygiene is maintained throughout. Thorough handwashing happens before and 	3X2=6

		after the trip. The trip is carried out in line with relevant local or national coronavirus guidance. Appropriate insurance arrangements are in place. The school follows the guidelines relevant to trips to indoor spaces. Once inside: Staff are to remain with the pupils in the group. Pupils and staff should wash hands thoroughly on arrival and before leaving. No educational trips or visits will be made during the first half term and up to date guidance will be reviewed before trips and visits are introduced.		
Extracurricular activities &	Staff, pupils, visitors,	School works with Greasby Junior School who provide	2x2=4	Communicate with after-
Out-of-school settings and	contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	before and after-school educational activities and		school clubs and consider
wraparound provision - inadequate measures in	of transmission of COVID 19	wraparound childcare for all pupils in line with current		when these can begin.
place.		guidance		Review procedures with
piace.		 Parents are advised of the provision available and that they should limit the use of multiple out-of-school settings 		the Girl Guiding
		providers where appropriate.		Association and agree
		 School ensures third parties who use the school premises 		days and times.
		have considered the relevant government guidance for their		days and times.
		sector and have put in place the appropriate protective		
		measures.		
		School requests a copy of their COVID 19 risk assessment		
Curriculum - Music, drama,	Staff, pupils, visitors,	Some activities can increase the risk of catching or passing on	3X2=6	
science & DT, and sporting	contractors increased risk	COVID-19. This happens where people are doing activities which		
activities	of transmission of COVID 19	generate more droplets as they breathe heavily, such as singing,		
		dancing, exercising, or raising their voices. The risk is greatest		
		where these factors overlap, for example in crowded indoor		
		spaces where people are raising their voices. In situations where		
		there is a higher risk of catching or passing on COVID-19, schools		
		should be particularly careful to follow the general guidance on		
		keeping safe.		
		Music		
		School & staff are aware that there is evidence to suggest		

- that singing increases the risk of coronavirus transmission due to the cumulative aerosol transmission.
- School has completed RA 023 Music in schools COVID 19
 and ensures the relevant protective measures are in place.
 Whole school singing activities will not resume until after half term when up to date guidance has been reviewed.

Dance & Drama

• School completes risk assessments for Drama & Dance and ensures the relevant protective measures are in place.

Sports

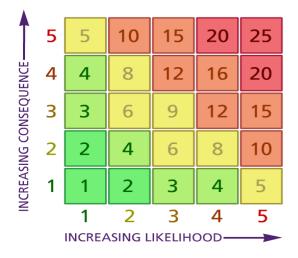
- The school only permits team sports on the list in the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport's (DCMS) team sport guidance.
- Sports equipment is thoroughly cleaned between each use.
- Outdoor sports are prioritised where possible.
- Large indoor spaces with maximised natural ventilation flows, e.g. through opening windows and doors, are used where outdoor sports are not possible.
- Staff overseeing indoor sports follow the system of controls in this risk assessment e.g. cleaning and hygiene.
- Staff are made aware that social distancing in sports is not required unless directed.
- School works with external coaches, clubs and organisations for curricular and extracurricular activities and considers how such arrangements operate within the school's wider protective measures.
- Competitions between different schools, whether indoor or outdoor, can take place in line with government guidance.

Science

- Follows latest guidance from CLEAPSS in addition to system of controls in school.
 - GL343 Guide to doing practical work during the COVID-19 Pandemic Science (New version)

DT

		Follows latest guidance from CLEAPSS in addition to system of controls in school. GL344 Guidance on practical work during the COVID-19 pandemic - D&T		
Protective measures in early years	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 Additional measures for early years The setting is not required to arrange children and staff in small, consistent groups. Children are supervised when washing their hands or using hand sanitiser. Disposable tissues are available and 'catch it, bin it, kill it' is encouraged through signage and prompting. Enhanced cleaning schedule is in place to include food preparation areas, dining areas and table coverings. Surfaces, toys, books, doors, sinks, toilets, and light switches are cleaned more regularly, using disinfectant. Activities that involve malleable materials for messy play, e.g. sand, mud, and water, are risk assessed. See RA 053 Sand & messy play Frequently touched surfaces, equipment, tools, and resources for messy play are thoroughly cleaned and dried before they are used by a different group. All items that are laundered are washed in line with government guidance and are not shared by pupils between washes. If a child attends more than one pre-school setting, the settings work together with parents to address any risks identified, allowing them to jointly deliver appropriate care. 	3X2=6	LS to review and update the Sand and Messy Play Risk Assessment



Risk Rating	Action Required	
20 - 25	Unacceptable – stop activity and make immediate improvements	
10 - 16	Urgent action – take immediate action and stop activity, if necessary, maintain existing controls vigorously	
5 - 9	Action – Improve within specific timescales	
3 - 4	Monitor – but look to improve at review or if there is a significant change	
1 - 2	Acceptable – no further action but ensure controls are maintained & reviewed	

Likelihood:

Consequence: 5 – Catastrophic 5 – Very likely

4 – Likely

4 – Major

3 – Fairly likely

3 – Moderate

2 – Unlikely

2 – Minor

1 – Very unlikely 1 – Insignificant

(1) List hazards something with the potential to cause harm here

- (2) List groups of people who are especially at risk from the significant hazards which you have identified
- (3) List existing controls here or note where the information may be found. Then try to quantify the level of risk the likelihood of harm arising that remains when the existing controls are in place based on the number of persons affected, how often they are exposed to the hazard and the severity of any consequence. Use this column to list the controls that you might take and develop all or some of that list into a workable action plan. Have regard for the level of risk, the cost of any action and the benefit you expect to gain. Agree the action plan with your team leader and make a note of it overleaf. If it is agreed that no further action is to be taken this too should be noted.

(5) ACTION PLAN

	5. Action plan	Responsible	Completed
1	Share up to date RA and FAQ 25.8.21 with all staff	J. Hall	
2	Write to parents on 1.9.21 with latest guidance update	M. Fisher	
3	Ensure "catch it, bin it, kill it" posters are visible around school	All staff	
4	Caretaker and cleaners to check supplies and maintain stocks informing MF if orders need to be made.	P. Davies and M. Fisher	
5	Communicate with after-school clubs and consider when these can begin.	S. Preston	
6	Review procedures with the Girl Guiding Association and agree days and times.	M. Fisher	
7	LS to review and update the Sand and Messy Play Risk Assessment	L. Stocker	
	Action plan agreed by (NAME & DATE)		
	J. Hall 28.8.21		