

## RA 029A School Opening COVID 19 2021



# RISK ASSESSMENT RECORDING FORM

Location or School Address: St Bernard's Catholic Primary School	Date assessment Undertaken: 20.8.2020 Updated 21/11/21 30/11/21 2/12/21	Assessment undertaken by: Jeanne Fairbrother and Julie Le Feuvre
Activity or situation:	Review date : weekly review following date above	Signature: J. Le Feuvre
RA 029A Omicron Variant Full Opening of school v1 29th Nov 2021		

## **Background information**

This update is in response to the DFE update on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021 due to the new Omicron variant. DfE Schools operational guidance updated 08.59 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021.

## **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

Please note that this risk assessment has been created in line with the current guidance. It contains sample control measures that fit with the DfE system of controls. One size does not fit all, and schools should make this model risk assessment their own and reflect any local measures, particularly local HPT's guidance.

### 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

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 <mark>(including</mark> <u>Omicron)</u> transmission in school.	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	<ul> <li>School has assessed the reasonably foreseeable risks of transmission of COVID 19</li> <li>The risk assessment is regularly reviewed as circumstances in school and the public health advice changes.</li> <li>School monitors whether the controls in place are effective.</li> </ul>	2X2=4	
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	<ul> <li>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.</li> <li>Remote education plans are in place for pupils who are self-isolating or shielding.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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&amp;T.</li> </ul>	2X2=4	

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Communication	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	<ul> <li>School follows latest DfE, PHE &amp; Gov.uk, Merseyside &amp; Cheshire PH Team and LA guidance</li> <li>Latest version RA 029A Omicron Variant Full Opening of school v1 published to website &amp; shared with unions, LA &amp; governors.</li> <li>Clear communication sent to parents and pupils with a link on the school website covering all aspects of how school will function.</li> <li>Regular staff briefings held to cover any changes to arrangements.</li> <li>School has shared with all staff the measures in place and involved staff &amp; the governing body in that process.</li> <li>A record is kept of all visitors and contractors that come to the school site.</li> </ul>	2X2=4	
Wellbeing - staff & pupils	Staff & pupils exposed to mental health issues due to COVID 19	<ul> <li>Staff are vigilant in discerning pupil mental health and report any concerns to a member of SLT/Wellbeing team.</li> <li>The school provides opportunities for pupils to talk about their mental health and experiences during the pandemic.</li> <li>Pupils have access to pastoral support and activities, e.g. opportunities to renew and develop friendships, ELSA</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Opportunities to discuss measures and concerns</li> <li>Wellbeing team continue to lead on initiatives</li> </ul>	2X2=4	

Face coverings	Staff, pupils, visitors,	<ul> <li>Staff and adult visitors should wear a face covering when</li> </ul>	3X2=6
	contractors increased risk	moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in	
	of transmission of COVID	corridors and communal areas.	
	19	· 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:	
		<ul> <li>transparent face coverings can also be worn.</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>face visors or shields can be worn only after carrying out</li> </ul>	
		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.	
		<ul> <li>School has a supply of face coverings available</li> </ul>	
		Clear instructions are provided on how to put on, remove, store, and dispose of face coverings.	

HFCMAT Central Services staff moving between schools and being exposed to/ potentially carrying the Covid virus (including Omicron).	HFCMAT Staff, School staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	<ul> <li>HFCMAT staff have read their role risk assessment and signed to say they have read &amp; understood this.</li> <li>HFCMAT staff have read the RA 029 Full opening of school latest version for SJP where they are based and signed to say they have read &amp; understood this.</li> <li>HFCMAT central services staff to read the RA029 for the further four sites they will visit.</li> <li>Any HFCMAT staff who are pregnant have been risk assessed See RA 026 New &amp; expectant mother latest version</li> <li>HFCMAT has risk assessed any staff who have medical conditions or require reasonable adjustments</li> <li>All meetings will be held remotely if possible, to reduce the risk of transmission.</li> <li>HFCMAT staff will always wear a face-covering in crowded areas e.g. corridors and staff rooms.</li> <li>HFCMAT staff to always maintain 2 m social distancing when possible</li> <li>Any meeting room or office will be well-ventilated</li> <li>Enhanced cleaning of all areas daily.</li> <li>HFCMAT staff will advise the school they are working in if they need assistance to evacuate the building in the event of a fire.</li> </ul>	3X2=6	If you identify any actions to complete, transfer them to the action plan below (5)
	contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	<ul> <li>Most start in education, children and children's social care settings will not require PPE in response to COVID-19 beyond what they would normally need for their work.</li> <li><u>Additional PPE for COVID-19</u> is only required in a very limited number of scenarios:</li> </ul>	272-4	

		<ul> <li>If a child, young person or student becomes ill with COVID 19 symptoms and only if close contact is necessary</li> <li>when performing aerosol generating procedures AGP's</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Staff are trained in correct use and disposal of PPE.</li> </ul>	
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	<ul> <li>Hand hygiene -</li> <li>School will continue to ensure that staff &amp; pupils maintain high standards of hand hygiene.</li> <li>Suitable facilities are provided for individuals to wash/sanitise their hands regularly</li> <li>Pupils are supervised, where appropriate, to use hand sanitizer safely.</li> <li>Respiratory hygiene</li> <li>School emphasises the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach with bins &amp; tissues available.</li> <li>Cleaning</li> <li>School will maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents with a focus on frequently touched areas.</li> <li>Appropriate cleaning schedules are in place and include regular cleaning of areas and equipment – staff are provided with materials in addition to the daily cleaning schedule</li> </ul>	2X2=4
Social distancing	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	<ul> <li>School has planned and risk assessed carefully following the latest DfE/PHE guidance</li> <li>School will consult Local Authority COVID helpline for specific advice if required</li> <li>Assemblies [Limited to twice weekly, under 15 minutes in Key Stages)</li> <li>Staffrooms are well-ventilated, staff wear a face covering unless they are eating/drinking.</li> <li>Meetings, with governors continue via Zoom.</li> </ul>	3X2=6

		<ul> <li>Teaching or holding meetings in well-ventilated areas wherever possible, such as outdoors or indoors with windows open.</li> <li>School has outbreak management plans in place to reintroduce bubbles temporarily if it becomes necessary due to local outbreaks or increases in cases at the instruction of PHE Teams. See RA 029B Contingency Plan</li> </ul>	
Events in school	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	<ul> <li>Christmas Fair will be held outside and well spaced out.</li> <li>Christmas performances will be recorded and parents can access them online.</li> </ul>	3X2=6
Ventilation - failure to ensure all occupied spaces are well ventilated.	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	<ul> <li>When school is in operation, it is well ventilated with comfortable teaching environments.</li> <li>When holding events where visitors are on site e.g. school plays, ventilation is increased.</li> <li>School opens external windows, doors &amp; internal doors (if they are not fire doors and where safe to do so) to increase ventilation.</li> <li>During colder weather, the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature is balanced; opening higher vents, arranging seating away from draughts.</li> <li>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</li> <li>Purging or airing rooms as frequently as possible to improve ventilation usually when the room for a break. For example, 10 minutes an hour can help reduce the risk from virus in the air, depending on the size of the room</li> <li>Outside space will be used, where practical.</li> <li>You could set the heating to maintain a comfortable temperature even when windows and doors are open</li> </ul>	2X2=4

		Co2 monitors Carbon dioxide (CO2) monitors in staff room and classrooms to help identify where a space is poorly ventilated. Schools encouraged to take steps to improve ventilation if CO2 readings are consistently high. Teaching staff instructed on how to interpret readings. (Check manufacturers' instructions)		
NHS Test & Trace - School failing to manage tracing close contacts	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	<ul> <li>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</li> <li>NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or parent to identify close contacts.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>School may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts (as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases).</li> <li>School will continue to work with the local director of Public Health &amp; local HP Teams in the case of a local outbreak and if the area becomes an Enhanced Support Area.</li> <li>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 someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:         <ul> <li>they are fully vaccinated</li> <li>they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months</li> <li>they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons</li> <li>Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2X2=4	

Asymptomatic testing	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19.	<ul> <li>usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal.</li> <li>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 <u>PCR test</u>. School will encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.</li> <li>Whilst awaiting the result of a PCR test</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Staff in primary schools should continue to test twice weekly at home, with lateral flow device (LFD) test kits, 3-4 days apart. Testing remains voluntary but is strongly encouraged.</li> <li>Primary age pupils (Y 6 and below) will not be expected</li> </ul>	3X2=6	
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	<ul> <li>to test.</li> <li>Parents are informed via letter of how the school responds to confirmed cases of coronavirus</li> <li>School follows local public health advice and the headteacher contacts the DFE Helpline/local HP Team advice line in the event of a positive test to carry out a rapid risk assessment and identify appropriate next steps.</li> <li>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).</li> </ul>	2X2=4	

Contact with potential or confirmed coronavirus cases in school	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	<ul> <li>If anyone in the school develops coronavirus symptoms while at school, this is managed in line with local and national guidance. They are:         <ul> <li>sent home and advised to arrange a PCR test as soon as possible.</li> <li>advised to follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Appropriate PPE will used if close contact is necessary.</li> <li>Anyone with symptoms is advised not to use public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.</li> <li>Any rooms used are cleaned thoroughly after they have left.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Staff members or pupils who have been in close contact with someone with symptoms.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	3X2=6	
Pregnant staff inadequate measures in place	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	<ul> <li>An individual risk assessment is carried out for pregnant staff with appropriate risk mitigation in line with the latest recommendations from DHSC, PHE &amp; RCOG. See RA 026 New &amp; Expectant member of staff.</li> </ul>	3X2=6	

CEV staff inadequate measures in place. All	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	<ul> <li>Pregnant staff of any gestation are not required to continue working on site if this is not supported by the separate risk assessment.</li> <li>Staff who are in the below categories should take a more precautionary approach:         <ul> <li>partially vaccinated or unvaccinated</li> <li>&gt;28 weeks pregnant and beyond, or</li> <li>are pregnant and have an underlying health condition that puts them at a greater risk of severe illness from coronavirus at any gestation</li> <li>School will undertake a workplace risk assessment for the above staff (See RA 026), and where appropriate consider both how to redeploy them and how to maximise the potential for homeworking, wherever possible.</li> <li>The above principles on protecting pregnant staff also apply to pregnant pupils.</li> <li>Pregnant staff are encouraged to get vaccinated if possible.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) staff are no longer advised to shield but are encouraged to take extra 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.</li> <li>CEV currently encouraged &amp; supported to attend work if they cannot work from home.</li> <li>Staff who live with those who are CEV attend the workplace but should ensure they follow the system of controls in place.</li> </ul>	2X2=4	
CEV pupil's school has inadequate measures in place.	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	<ul> <li>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.</li> </ul>	2X2=4	

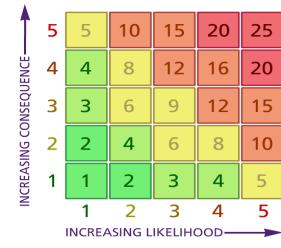
		<ul> <li>Pupils and students who live with someone who is CEV continue to attend school as normal.</li> <li>School liaises with the parents of CEV pupils, if identified, an individual risk assessment is completed.</li> <li>The school collaborates with the LA to ensure that alternative arrangements for CEV pupils are in place to prepare for the event that the school site is required to close.</li> </ul>	
Transport	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	<ul> <li>School will speak to the local authority to find out if they will be making any changes to the measures in place for the autumn term &amp; to request a copy of their updated risk assessment.</li> <li>Drivers and passenger assistants will not normally require personal protective equipment (PPE) on school transport.</li> <li>Pupils who require care and interventions that require the use of PPE before COIVD-19, will continue as usual.</li> <li>Pupils do not board school transport if they have a positive test result or symptoms of coronavirus.</li> <li>School liaises with the LA and other transport providers to ensure they are adopting COVID-secure protocols, and requests a copy of their risk assessment, where relevant.</li> <li>Face coverings are recommended and expected to be worn in enclosed and crowded places - this includes public and dedicated school transport.</li> <li>Pupils are advised to clean their hands before boarding transport and again on disembarking.</li> <li>Additional cleaning of vehicles is carried out regularly.</li> <li>Fresh air through ventilation is maximised by opening windows and ceiling vents.</li> </ul>	2X2=4
Educational visits	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	<ul> <li>A full and thorough risk assessments in relation to all educational visits is carried out to ensure that any public health advice, such as hygiene and ventilation requirements, is included as part of that risk assessment. See Edsential</li> </ul>	3X2=6

		<b>Evolve for further assistance.</b> lotc@edsential.co.uk or tel 0151 541 2170 Ex 4		
Extracurricular activities & Out-of-school settings and wraparound provision - inadequate measures in place.	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	<ul> <li>School works to provide all before and after-school educational activities and wraparound childcare for all pupils</li> <li>Out-of-school settings and wraparound childcare providers can offer provision to all children</li> <li>Out-of-school settings and wraparound childcare and other organised activities for children may take place in groups of any number.</li> <li>Out-of-school settings and wraparound provisions are run in line with the current government guidance &amp; system of controls.</li> <li>Parents are advised of the provision available and that they should limit the use of multiple out-of-school settings providers where appropriate.</li> <li>Schools that hire out their premises for use by third party wraparound care School ensures third parties who use the school premises have considered the relevant government guidance for their sector and have put in place the appropriate protective measures.</li> <li>School requests a copy of their COVID 19 risk assessment</li> </ul>	2X2=4	
Curriculum - Music, drama, science & DT, and sporting activities	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	Some activities can increase the risk of catching or passing on COVID-19. This happens where people are doing activities which 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. <b>Music</b> School & staff are aware that there is evidence to suggest that singing and playing wind and brass instruments increases the risk of coronavirus transmission due to the cumulative aerosol transmission.	2X2=4	

School has completed RA 023 Music in schools COVID 19
and ensures the relevant protective measures are in place.
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 <u>guidance</u> .
Sports equipment is thoroughly cleaned between each use.
School swimming and water safety lessons are conducted in
line with Swim England's <u>guidance</u> .
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.
Measures are in place to minimise the risk of transmission in
changing rooms, in line with DCMS guidance.
External facilities are used in line with government
guidance, including travel to and from those facilities.
<ul> <li>School works with external coaches, clubs and organisations</li> </ul>
for curricular and extracurricular activities and considers
how such arrangements operate within the school's wider
protective measures.
<ul> <li>Competitions between different schools, whether indoor or</li> </ul>
outdoor, can take place in line with government guidance.
Science
Follows latest guidance from CLEAPSS in addition to system
of controls in school.

	<u>GL343 - Guide to doing practical work during the COVID-19</u> <u>Pandemic – Science (New version)</u>	
•	<ul> <li>Follows latest guidance from CLEAPSS in addition to system of controls in school.</li> <li><u>GL344 Guidance on practical work during the COVID-19</u> pandemic - D&amp;T</li> </ul>	

Risk Rating	Action Required	
20 - 25	Unacceptable – stop activity and make immediate improvements	
10 - 16	<b>Urgent action</b> – 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:

- 5 Very likely
- 4 Likely
- 3 Fairly likely 3 Moderate
- 2 Unlikely
- 1 Very unlikely 1 Insignificant

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**Consequence:** 

4 – Major

2 – Minor

5 – Catastrophic

(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 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			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
1			
0			
	Action plan agreed by (NAME & DATE)		