

Covid 19 addendum

We remain committed to the ethos, principles and desire to limit the number and severity of physical interventions in school. If a child / young person has any plan which includes potential use of physical intervention, this should be reviewed and updated by staff who know the pupil well to further reduce risk.

All Government guidance has been taken as regards who should be in school and who should not as a result of illness due to covid 19 and therefore in the first instance measures to reduce risks linked to physical intervention include:

- 1. Considering the impact that lockdown will have had on the individual child's social interaction and mental well-being**
 - We will consider how their needs may have changed and how we are going to explore this with them upon their return.
 - We will find out more about this from their parents/carers.
 - We will consider additional or different measures need to be added to their plan so the above needs are met.
- 2. Reducing social challenge**
 - If a child's difficulties lie in this area we may organise their day differently socially to reduce anxiety e.g. less/more planned play times; more structured play sessions; include in different group.
 - We will consider what additional support/scaffolding they will need. E.g. more adult support; buddy system; extra equipment; social stories
 - We will think about what physical spaces can be used safely for calm down/being alone time.
- 3. Reducing academic challenge**
 - We will think about how our curriculum will look different for all children and will communicate this so that anxiety around this is reduced upon entry initially.
- 4. Updating My plans/Physical handling plans**
 - Children who already have a My Plan/physical handling plan to keep them safe will have their plan revised and update in line with the above measures and it will be shared with all staff
- 4. Paying particular attention to any change in behaviour and 'stage 1' behaviours, acting appropriately and in a timely manner to avoid unnecessary escalation.**

In the event that children need to be physically handled for their own safety despite all possible measures put in place staff are encouraged to bring a change of clothes for changing if necessary. In line with existing policy, physical intervention is an absolute last resort. Physical intervention should be used for as short a time as possible e.g. move to break out area and release. Where possible, physical intervention should involve a limited number of people e.g. single person escort. Staff can limit risk from water droplets e.g. looking away and washing after physical intervention. Rooms and equipment will be cleaned on a regular basis. Staff involved with a physical intervention should inform cleaning staff so that additional cleaning of rooms and equipment can be arranged if necessary.

Government advice is that normal procedures should be followed for children not displaying symptoms. Any children displaying symptoms or living with a person displaying symptoms will not be attending school.