

Principles Phase Two Planning Opening of Schools Strategy July 2020

Core Rationale:

- The safety and welfare of pupils and staff remains the Trust's paramount principle for all planning.
- Schools will organise themselves in ways that are fully compliant with the Public Health England Endorsed System of Controls.
- Schools will have robust monitoring systems in place to ensure controls are effective.
- The Trust and its schools will make decisions that meet the needs of local communities, in line with advice from local public health teams and will act at pace as and when required.



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To achieve the core rationale for the opening of schools to all pupils from September 2020, the Trust is working closely with all schools to ensure planning, systems and processes are universally adopted. This will ensure the Trust is confident the safeguarding of children, staff and parents is as secure as possible and all possible precautions have been taken.

Phase Two Opening of Schools Strategy

The Trust Opening of Schools Plan for September 2020 has 8 work-strands. These form the basis of all planning and are supported by this core rationale. All planning documents have been developed following detailed consideration of the full range of government Public Health England guidance as well as information and evidence presented from other external sources e.g. professional association and union advice.

The work-strands are:

Work-strand One:	Maintaining oversight - PHE Endorsed Systems of Controls (THE MUSTS)	
Work-strand Two:	School Operations, Infection Control and Management	
Work-strand Three:	The Recovery Curriculum	Curriculum, Behaviour, and Pastoral Support
Work-strand Four:		Assessment and Accountability
Work-strand Five:	Staff Safety, Wellbeing and Training	
Work-strand Six:	Communication and Information Sharing	
Work-strand Seven:	Finance and Resourcing	
Work-strand Eight:	Leadership, Safeguarding, Contingency and Local Outbreak Planning	
COVID-19 ONGOING RISK REGISTER AND ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST		

At Trust level, each work-strand is owned jointly by a headteacher and member(s) of the central team.

Guiding Principles

The guiding principles used to shape planning are organised into three priority areas:

- A safe environment
- Safe children and families
- A safe workforce

Across all three areas, the Trust will adopt a **TEST, LEARN, REVIEW** model to ensure that plans are kept under constant scrutiny and are flexible enough to be adapted quickly if required.

A Safe Environment	
1.	The Trust and its schools will work together as one organisation to ensure universal planning, systems, and processes. No school will act on its own.
2.	The full opening will be managed with extreme caution and care so that the whole Trust community are confident that all necessary protective measures have been put in place.
3.	The Trust will fully implement the Public Health England (PHE) Endorsed Systems of Controls
4.	Trust leaders and headteachers will be responsible for evaluating whether and how it will be safe to open schools fully from September 2020.
5.	School leaders know the unique circumstances of their schools and, working within the overarching Trust Plan, may need to adapt actions following their own risk assessment and review of context.
6.	All schools will follow common systems and processes to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective infection protection and controls • effective risk management and mitigation • enhanced cleaning schedules • enhance hygiene practices • appropriate PPE equipment is available as required • effective management of pupils/staff who fall ill on site • safe fire evacuation and lockdown processes
7.	The Trust and school leaders will work with local public health teams in deciding to close a school where testing indicates a cluster of new covid-19 cases.
8.	All planning will continue to consider the impact on staff and pupils with protected characteristics e.g. health status, pregnancy, race, and disability etc.
9.	Levels of virus transmission in local areas will be kept under constant review to consider the potential impact on school safety.
Safe Children and Families	
1.	School leaders will identify how pupils will be re-admitted to schools from September 2020. This is likely to involve some initial staggering of year groups to ensure safety.
2.	Content and timing of communications to parents will be planned across the Trust so common messages are provided e.g. processes for drop off/collection, school meals provision etc.
3.	Safeguarding practices will remain under constant review by all schools with continued compliance with updated KCSIE 2020.
5.	Behaviour policies and practices will reflect the new arrangements and routines and support the reduction of risk as far as possible. Individual pupil risk assessments will be conducted for pupils where there is concern about their capacity to adhere to the new arrangements e.g. physical distancing requirements.

6.	The Trust and its schools will work together to develop and implement a Recovery Curriculum.
7.	The physical and organisational structures needed to limit risk and movement around buildings will be agreed collaboratively and recognise the individual context of each school site.
8.	Alongside pupil safety, planning will continue to include mental health, pastoral and wider wellbeing support for pupils and staff e.g. bereavement support, anxiety, and trauma.
9.	Pupils who are unable to attend school will receive an ongoing learning offer.
A Safe Workforce	
1.	The safety and wellbeing of staff will always be a paramount consideration in all ongoing planning.
2.	The content and timing of formal staff communication(s) will be agreed by Trust leaders and headteachers together.
3.	Staff who can't return to school will be expected and supported to work from home.
4.	Staff will continue to adhere to statutory safeguarding guidance as set out in the revised Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 (KCSIE) and associated Trust safeguarding procedures.
5.	All staff will receive re-integration training prior to the opening of schools in order to implement the new arrangements confidently and successfully.
6.	Staff and senior leader workload expectations will be reviewed and agreed in line with the new arrangements.
7.	Any new leadership roles and responsibilities under the new arrangements will be disseminated clearly to all staff.