



Advance Trust

## SOCIALDISTANCING COVID-19 POLICY

**Policy Implemented** May 2020

**School Based Staff Responsible:** Head Teacher / Head of School

**Overall accountability:** Executive Principal

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## **Our Commitment to Pupils' Safety and Well-being**

At Vale of Evesham School we respect and value all children. We are committed to providing a safe and secure environment where all pupils feel able to access education. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services, at Vale of Evesham School. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

### **Introduction:**

The risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19 are significant and the safety and well-being of all our pupils' and our staff remains our overwhelming priority.

The government is asking schools, local authorities and families to work together to establish whether a child's needs can be met safely at home during this time. Many children and young people with an Education, Health and Care plan can remain safely at home, and where this is the case, it may be more appropriate for them to do so to ensure the safety and well-being of the wider community. This policy document has been written to explain the social distancing measures and procedures Vale of Evesham School will be adhering to when pupils are in school. Vale of Evesham School is adhering to the latest up-to-date government social distancing guidelines, placing the pupils' safety and well-being at the core. This document should be used alongside the individual pupil risk assessments to help support the identification of pupils who need to be attending school.

This document has been written in conjunction with the following government guidelines:

'Coronavirus (COVID-19): Implementing social distancing in education and childcare settings' found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings>.

'Supporting vulnerable children and young people during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak' found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>.

The following points are important to note:

- children are likely to become infected with coronavirus (COVID-19) at roughly the same rate as adults, but the infection is usually mild.
- the most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough or a high temperature (over 37.8 degrees).
- for most children and staff, coronavirus (COVID-19) will not cause serious illness.

Children and young people with an EHC plan in all health categories, including the most vulnerable, may continue to attend education or a childcare setting as usual if their local authority risk assessment has determined this is appropriate, taking on board the views of their parents and the school.

### **Our Education Provision**

Vale of Evesham School is currently operating as comprehensive virtual learning environment provision as possible, where teachers are providing lessons and tutorials to pupils from home. This has been put in place to help support the national guidelines which remain in place: stay aware, protect the NHS and save lives.

## **The School Day**

The school day will run from 9am to 3pm, however, start and finish times will need to be staggered to enable safe social distancing to take place. It will consist of a number of limited but different activities based within one classrooms. Pupils will have access to outside spaces at regular intervals throughout the day.

## **Behaviour Expectations**

The safety and well-being of all pupils and staff is the most important aspect of this policy. All pupils attending school are expected to follow the normal expectations of behaviour, and the expectations set out in this social distancing policy. Most importantly, to ensure the safety and well-being of all pupils and staff, pupils must always listen and follow staff instructions. By attending school, parents and carers have agreed to follow all aspects of this policy. Failure to adhere to the expectations set out in this policy, and/or any behaviour that places themselves or others at risk may result in the pupil being sent home immediately. By sending your child into school, you as parents and carers are agreeing to support the school to ensure pupils adhere to all the social distancing measures outlined in this policy. These have been designed to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone at school.

Disclaimer: By sending your child into school, you as parents and carers are recognising the risks associated with social gatherings and by doing so, are acknowledging that despite all best and reasonable efforts the school environment cannot be a 100% risk free environment.

## **Section 1: Hygiene & Health**

### **Health**

- Pupils must not enter the school setting if they are displaying any of the COVID-19 symptoms.
- Pupils will be encouraged not to touch their faces, to use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste.
- Handwashing: The school has got several hand sanitiser stations. Pupils will be expected to use the hand sanitiser or wash their hands using anti-bacterial soap in the following situations:
  - a) On entry and exit of the school.
  - b) On entry and exit into every classroom.
  - c) When they blow their nose, use the toilet, cough or sneeze, handle or eat food.
  - d) After using the toilet.

## **Section 2: Social Distancing**

- The school will be divided into zones with designated staff, each zone will have their own entrance to the building and their own toilet facilities.
- Break and lunch times will be staggered at different times.
- There will be restricted access to the school site.

## **Section 3: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- Staff will be required to wear PPE in the form of a face mask in order to protect themselves and others. Where members of staff are addressing pupil personal care needs, disposable PPE will be used (masks, gloves, aprons and sanitiser and be disposed of using double nappy sacks in lidded bins). If a pupil has become unwell during the day and is awaiting collection for return home, the member of staff waiting with that child will be required to wear PPE.

## **Section 4: Restricted School Access**

- Pupils and staff will have restricted access to the school site.
- Pupils, parents and transport providers will be given clear instruction as to which zone they will be using on entry to the school day.
- Pupils will have access to a limited number of classrooms only.
- Pupils will enter their learning spaces from an outside door only.
- Pupils will have a staggered break and lunch time at different times.

## **Section 5: Toilets**

- All pupils will have access to toileting facilities.
- Each of the bubblezones has its own toilet facilities.
- All pupils should wash their hands for at least 20 seconds, with anti-bacterial soap, after using the toilets.

## **Section 6: Education**

- Pupils will receive a significantly reduced formal education programme as the school will be operating a skeleton staff team.
- The activities provided at school will be a range of academic, social and personal development activities aimed at supporting pupils' wellbeing rather than their academic progress.

- Learning activities will be delivered by a range of staff members, including non-subject specialists.
- Pupils will have access to movement breaks at different times of the day, at staggered times.

### **Section 7: Physical Intervention**

- Unless absolutely necessary for the safety of pupil, staff and others, staff will not be physically intervening with pupils. If a pupil becomes deregulated to the point of needing a physical intervention, parents will be called to come and collect their child immediately.
- Any staff required to undertake a physical intervention will wear, if time allows, PPE
- Pupils must listen and follow staff instructions at all times. Failure to do so may result in parents being asked to collect their child early.

### **Section 8: Cleaning**

- The school will be cleaned at the end of every day.
- General cleaning will happen during the day to ensure the safety and well-being of pupils and staff.

### **Section 9: Transport**

- Parents and carers must bring their pupils into school where possible to aid social distancing. County transport can be provided for students on an individual basis, however, where this takes place, parents and carers will be asked to acknowledge that unless the drivers cab is physically separated from the seat(s) in the rear, social distancing cannot be guaranteed
- Government guidelines state that schools must consider how to reduce any unnecessary travel.

### **Section 10: Parents**

- By sending your child into school, you are agreeing to adhere to all the social distancing measures outlined in this policy to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone at school.
- Talk to your child and explain the social distancing rules in this policy prior to arriving at school.
- Do not gather at the school entrance and model social distancing rules so that your child learns good practice.

Disclaimer: By sending your child into school, you are recognising the risks associated with social gatherings and by doing so, are acknowledging that the school environment cannot be a 100% risk free environment. There are several factors outside of the control of the staff team that may place your child at risk of contracting COVID-19.