



Rowhill School Plans for full opening in September

The Government guidelines for opening of schools in September stipulate that all pupils should be back in school full time. To support this there are certain measures that schools need to put into place. It places responsibility on each school to put measures into place to reduce the spread of Covid-19 whilst offering a broad and balanced curriculum. Pupils experiencing prolonged absence from school are disadvantaged academically, socially - and for many Rowhill pupils, from a welfare and safety perspective; and can have a negative effect on pupils emotional wellbeing and mental health.

As Rowhill School has been open throughout the pandemic Coronavirus we have many of these measures in place. However, with all pupils expecting to be back to school in September the volume of pupils and staff in the school will increase dramatically. This will cause concerns over social distancing between pupils and other pupils, as well as pupils with staff and staff with other staff. The contacts can't be completely eliminated but can be risk assessed and reduced.

These essential measures include:

- 1) A requirement that people who have Covid-19 symptoms should stay at home and get tested.
- 2) Robust hand and respiratory hygiene.
- 3) Enhanced cleaning arrangements.
- 4) Active engagement with NHS Test and Trace.
- 5) Formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school and whenever possible minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable.

How contacts are reduced will depend on the school's circumstances and will (as much as possible) include:

- Grouping children together.
- Avoiding contact between groups.
- Arranging classrooms with forward facing desks.
- Staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff.

Reducing the risk.

The system of controls -1

The set of actions schools must take, grouped into 'prevention' and 'response to any infection.

A. Prevention:

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.

Risk reducing action:

- Staff or pupils who have Covid-19 symptoms should not come into school and get tested. If they test positive they should stay at home for 7-14 days and contact the school.
- Staff, parents and visitors to the school to be made aware that need to stay at home if they develop any symptoms.

2) Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual.

Risk reducing action:

- Teaching staff to instil good hand washing and sanitising practices in school.
- School to provide more hand sanitising and hand washing stations within the school.
- Portable sinks to be hired to support the hand washing process and placed strategically around the school.
- Extra hand sanitising stations to be set sought and placed strategically around the school.

3) Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.

Risk reducing action:

- Teaching staff to instil 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Extra paper towels and bins to be provided.

4) Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.

Risk reducing action:

- School to employ 2 full time cleaners during the day who will clean targeted areas around the school. This will include equipment, classrooms, lunch hall and other identified areas.
- A cleaning schedule will be set up.
- Each teaching area to have its own cleaning equipment to use in line with their own risk-assessment.
- Targeted cleaning at the beginning and at the end of the school day.

5) Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.

Risk reducing action:

- Bubble system. With the new government proposals of all pupils being in school we will not be able to have class bubbles. However, we can have a system in place that will consist of **four bubbles: 1) Primary, 2) Secondary, 3) ACP, 4) STLS.**
- Staff would be assigned to work in one bubble only. The idea is that as far as practically possible these bubbles stay separate from each other. There will be some variations to this including use of senior staff, kitchen staff, cleaning and transport.
- Request to KCC transport to bring primary and Secondary pupils into school on separate taxis. (This may not be possible due to logistics and cost) GB to request this W/C 13th July.
- Request to transport different drop off and pick up times for Primary and Secondary
- Breaks and lunchtimes to be staggered.
- If there is a positive case in school it would result in a partial school closure and not a full school closure, as well as less cross contamination and spread of Covid 19 to pupils, parents and families, and staff.

6) Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Risk reducing action:

- Appropriate PPE equipment bought and made available to staff including face masks, face visors, gloves and aprons.

Numbers 1 to 4 must be in place in all schools, all the time.

Number 5 must be properly considered and schools must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.

Number 6 applies in specific circumstances

The system of controls -2

A. Response to any infection:

- 7) Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
 - This system should enable the NHS to trace and then contact everyone who has had contact with someone who has tested positive. (See government guidance)
 - Headteacher to contact Public Health England for further and specific advice
- 8) Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community.
 - Isolate to medical room the pupils/staff who have symptoms and send to get tested.
- 9) Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.
 - Head Teacher to contact Public Health England to see advice and guidance. This information to be shared with parents/carers and staff.

Transport

School transport

Pupils on dedicated school services do not mix with the general public and tend to be consistent. This means **physical distancing will not apply from the autumn term on dedicated transport**. Advice is given on the system of controls to implement for school transport. The Head Teacher and Chair of governors will contact KCC transport and request that Primary and Secondary pupils are transported separately.

Attendance

The usual rules on school attendance will apply from September, including:

- Parents' duty to ensure that their child attends school regularly where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- Schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence.

Curriculum: Physical activity

Pupils should be kept in consistent groups, sports equipment thoroughly cleaned between each use by different individual groups, and contact sports avoided. (See PE risk-assessment)

Outdoor sports should be prioritised where possible, and large indoor spaces used where it is not, maximising distancing between pupils and paying scrupulous attention to cleaning and hygiene. This is particularly important in a sports setting because of the way in which people breathe during exercise. **External facilities can also be used in line with government guidance for the use of, and travel to and from, those facilities.**

Supply staff, Therapists and Counsellors

Schools can continue to engage supply teachers and teaching assistants and other supply staff during this period. Supply staff and other temporary workers can move between schools, but school leaders will want to consider how to minimise the number of visitors to the school where possible. To minimise the numbers of temporary staff entering the school premises, and secure best value, schools may wish to use longer assignments with supply teachers and agree a minimum number of hours across the academic year. Rowhill School will offer our usual SALT, OT, counselling and other important interventions from September 2020. Therapy assistants will work in one bubble only. Some therapies will still be delivered by video link.

Pupil wellbeing and support

Pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. This may particularly be the case for pupils at Rowhill School, including those with a social worker and young carers. It is important to contextualise these feelings as normal responses to an abnormal situation. Some may need support to re-adjust to school; others may have enjoyed being at home and be reluctant to return; a few may be showing signs of more severe anxiety or depression. Others will not be experiencing any challenges and will be keen and ready to return to school. Schools should consider the provision of pastoral and extra-curricular activities to all pupils designed to:

Support the rebuilding of friendships and social engagement. A summer holiday club has been set up to support pupil emotional wellbeing and transition back into school.

Address and equip pupils to respond to issues linked to coronavirus. Delivery of the recovery curriculum to support pupil's understanding of the Coronavirus.

Support pupils with approaches to improving their physical and mental wellbeing. Home visits to vulnerable pupils, summer holiday club, continuous tutor contact and video linked therapies.

Process in the event of local outbreaks

If a local area sees a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, **appropriate authorities** will decide which measures to implement to help contain the spread. The Department for Education will be involved in decisions at a local and national level affecting a geographical area, and will support appropriate authorities and individual settings to follow the health advice. DfE has published local lockdown guidance.

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