

Kings' School

COVID PROTOCOL

This Protocol should be read in conjunction with the DFE published guidance for schools at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

The specific, temporary measures required by this Protocol take precedence over any conflicting instructions issued through the Kings' School Handbook. This Protocol must be read in conjunction with other school policies particularly those relating to Safeguarding, Health & Safety and actions to be taken in emergencies.

Aim

This Protocol will detail the changes to normal practices and routines that will be required by pupils, staff and visitors. It is based upon the findings of the COVID Risk Assessment which has identified the control measures necessary to mitigate the COVID risk. Should this risk increase, measures will be stepped up in accordance with the school's outbreak management plan.

Principles

On 21 February 2022 the Government published its plan for living with COVID-19 ([COVID-19 Response: Living with COVID-19](#)). The objective in this next phase is to enable the country to manage COVID-19 like other respiratory illnesses and this includes the removal of legal restrictions that have been in place up to now. Whilst the risk of COVID transmission still exists, it continues to be a virus that we learn to live with, and the imperative to reduce the disruption to children and their education remains.

The risk of COVID transmission results from contamination being spread from touch or by exposure to airborne infection. Basic principles to reduce transmission include good personal hygiene and the maintenance of appropriate cleaning routines, keeping occupied spaces well ventilated and following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Hygiene

Hand hygiene. Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice. The school has increased the provision for hand cleaning with numerous sanitising stations provided around the site.

Respiratory hygiene. The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important. Pupils will be regularly reminded of the need for good practice when coughing and sneezing. Tissues and handkerchiefs should be used to protect others.

Cleaning

Cleaning equipment. The school has purchased additional portable fogging spray machines that are available to each department. They are also kept and available in higher risk areas including the Pupil Support area and physio room and in Matron's room to allow regular disinfection between visits. Additional large capacity fogging machines have also been purchased for use in larger spaces including the sports hall, gym and main hall. These can also be used for regular disinfection of PE equipment such as rackets, bats and balls.

Classroom cleaning between lessons. Every classroom is provided with anti-bacterial disinfecting spray. These are the same as normal household disinfectants, they are effective against the COVID virus and are safe to use without need for personal protection. Teachers will be invited to spray each desk before the class sits down; pupils will be invited to wipe any damp residue with a paper towel before the lesson commences.

End of day clean. The school's normal cleaning at the end of day is being maintained with the cleaning staff instructed to ensure that every surface is wiped down in order to be ready for the following day.

Ventilation

Good Ventilation. It is important to ensure that the school is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained. If possible, staff are to open external windows to improve natural ventilation and create a throughput of air.

CO2 Monitors. A number of CO2 monitors have been distributed across the school and within every department. Staff are encouraged to monitor the ventilation status of their teaching spaces and take additional measures if necessary (balancing the need for increased ventilation with maintaining a comfortable temperature conducive to learning).

Face Coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas. However individuals can choose to wear a face covering if they so wish. In addition, wider advice on face coverings should be followed outside of school, including on transport to and from school.

Asymptomatic Testing

From 21 February, staff and pupils will not be expected to continue to take part in regular asymptomatic testing, and the school will no longer be providing testing kit for this purpose. Asymptomatic testing advice for the general population should now be followed.

Attendance and suspected cases

If you are unwell or have had a positive test result, you should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. If you are unable to come into school for this reason, you are to notify the school by the following means:

Pupil Absence. An email is to be sent to the Pupil Absence mailbox (pupilabsence@kings-winchester.hants.sch.uk) with the pupil's name, year group and tutor group and reason for absence.

Staff Absence. A voicemail message is to be left on the school phone system (01962 861161 option 2) and your line manager informed.

Unwell at school. Pupils who feel unwell at school should report to Matron's room as usual. If Matron believes that this may be Coronavirus-related then the pupil will be kept in isolation until they can be collected. Matron's room will then be disinfected. Staff feeling unwell with suspected Coronavirus symptoms should immediately leave the school site for isolation notifying their line manager they have done so.

Summary

The school is continuing to meet the COVID challenge. However keeping us all safe requires everyone to play their part. Provided that we all continue to take a sensible approach, be respectful of others and wash our hands regularly we will have done all we can to minimise the risk whilst maintaining a safe environment for the delivery of the school's curriculum.