## School Covid-19 Risk Assessment & Checklist

School:	Hippings Methodist Primary School
Address:	Heron Way Oswaldtwistle Lancashire BB5 3BT
Completed by:	Mrs Tracey Westwell
Date:	September 2021 Updated January 2022
Proposed review date:	14 February 2022(Unless the situation changes before hand)

## Instructions

As an employer, you must by law protect workers and others from risks to their health and safety. This includes risks from COVID-19.

COVID-19 is a workplace hazard and it must now be managed in the same way as other workplace hazards. This includes:

- completing a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks of COVID-19 in the workplace and
- identifying control measures to manage the risk.

Failure to carry out a suitable and sufficient risk assessment and put in place sufficient control measures may be considered a breach of health and safety law.

You must regularly review and update your risk assessments - treating them as 'living documents', as the circumstances in your school and public health advice changes. This includes having active arrangements in place to monitor whether the controls are effective and working as planned. For more information on what is required of school leaders in relation to health and safety risk assessments and managing risk, see the advice on the government website: health and safety advice for schools or the Health and Safety web pages via the Schools Portal.

Text highlighted in yellow relates to new amendments to the content.

Issue: 4	School Covid-19 Risk Assessment & Checklist
Issued by: H&S Team	Page 1 of 15

Issued by: H&S Team

Potential hazards & guidance on how to control them	Do you believe the hazard is adequately controlled? Yes or No	Recommended Controls Measures  Control measures must be amended to reflect the circumstances of your workplace by removing, adding, or amending content below.
Reduce the risk of the virus spreading through aeros	sols	
When school is in operation, it is important to ensure it is ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained. Arrangements should balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature.  Schools should follow LCC's <u>Simple Steps for Good Ventiguidance</u> and complete the <u>Ventilation Checklist</u> .  Specialist advice and assistance on ventilation measures obtained from the Building Services Engineers <u>duty.engineer@lancashire.gov.uk</u> .	tilation	<ul> <li>The Ventilation Inspection Checklist has been completed and is attached as an appendix to the "COVID Secure Risk Assessment".</li> <li>Any required actions as an outcome from the ventilation inspection have been implemented or are being progressed accordingly (see details in action plan section).</li> <li>In accordance with the ventilation checklist school will ensure that appropriate ventilation is available in all occupied spaces.</li> <li>Any areas identified with poor ventilation have been raised with the building services engineer.</li> <li>Carbon Dioxide monitors supplied by DFE are now in place in every classroom and staff room.</li> </ul>
Reduce the risk of the virus spreading through socia	I contact	
COVID-19 can still be spread through social contact. The be mitigated by reducing the number of people staff and come into contact with during the day.  It is no longer necessary to keep children in consistent graph ('bubbles'). This means that assemblies can resume, and no longer a need to make alternative arrangements to available at lunch.	pupils roups I there is	<ul> <li>New guidance means that there are no restrictions in place for schools. However, all staff and pupils remain aware of the benefits of minimising social contact.</li> <li>In addition, school has implemented the following procedures to support social distancing where possible:</li> <li>KS1 and KS2 breaktimes will remain separate in order to allow for more spacing. At lunch times all year groups will remain in their designated areas.</li> <li>Worship will continue to take place in classrooms, planned by our chaplain, Charlotte. Key festivals will be celebrated in the hall; Years 5 and 6, Years 3 and 4, Years 1 and 2, Reception.</li> </ul>
Issue: 4		School Covid-19 Risk Assessment & Checklist

Page 2 of 15

Potential hazards & guidance on how to control them	Do you believe the hazard is adequately controlled? Yes or No	Recommended Controls Measures  Control measures must be amended to reflect the circumstances of your workplace by removing, adding, or amending content below.  • Classes will ensure that they are seated at opposite ends of the hall
		and all windows must be open.
Maintain good hygiene throughout the day		
Effective hand washing your hands is one of the easiest ways to protect yourself and others from illnesses such as Covid-19.  Washing your hands properly removes dirt, viruses and bacteria and prevents them spreading to other people and objects which in turn can spread illnesses such as Covid-19.		Staff, pupils and visitors are instructed to wash hands or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day particularly when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms, before and after eating, after using the toilet, after touching shared resources or after touching their face, blowing their nose, sneezing, coughing.
Public Health England provides best practice guidance on how to wash your hands.		<ul> <li>Hand washing facilities are readily available. In addition, hand sanitiser stations have been positioned to allow pupils and staff to clean their hands regularly, particularly when entering and leaving the classroom.</li> </ul>
		Staff have frequent opportunities to wash their hands when providing care to non-symptomatic children who present behaviours which may increase the risk of droplet transmission such as biting, licking, kissing or spitting.
		Alcohol based hand sanitiser or wipes are not used in lessons or activities involving the use of naked flames e.g. in science labs or food tech classes. In these areas where necessary hands will be washed using soap and running water and dried thoroughly.

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		<ul> <li>Pupils are reminded how to catch coughs and sneezes if a tissue is not readily available i.e. in the crook of the elbow rather than in the hands.</li> <li>Posters display good hand washing technique and government guidelines on good respiratory hygiene.</li> <li>Staff supporting others to evacuate are aware of the need to follow hand washing or sanitising instructions.</li> <li>First aiders will pay particular attention to sanitisation measures immediately before and following the administration of first aid. Gloves and aprons and masks are readily available.</li> <li>Staff who have assisted someone who has taken unwell with COVID-19 symptoms are aware of the need to follow appropriate handwashing guidelines.</li> </ul>
		Staff handling deliveries will observe good hand hygiene.
Reduce the risk of the virus spreading through contact with co	ontaminated su	rfaces
COVID-19 can still be spread through touching contaminated surfaces.  An appropriate cleaning schedule must be in place and maintained. This should include regular cleaning of areas and equipment (for example, twice per day), with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.		<ul> <li>An enhanced cleaning schedule is in place. A documented cleaning checklist identifies cleaning requirements and individual responsibilities.</li> <li>Rooms/shared areas are cleaned regularly; at least twice day.</li> <li>Repeatedly touched objects such as railings/bannisters, door and window handles, taps, desk/tabletops, computer equipment, MFDs, telephones and toilet facilities are frequently cleaned.</li> </ul>

Issue: 4 Issued by: H&S Team

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Where cleaning is required after a known or suspected case of COVID-19, refer to the <u>guidance on cleaning in non-healthcare</u> <u>settings.</u>		Classroom based resources that are shared such as books, play equipment, toys, sports equipment, outdoor play equipment, art and science equipment are cleaned regularly.
Provide extra non recycling bins for the disposal of single use face coverings and PPE.		Where equipment/machinery cannot be washed down regularly alternative protective measures have been designed. (school to note what these are).
Refer to the guidance on how to dispose of personal or business waste including face coverings and PPE.		Where non-symptomatic children present behaviours which may increase the risk of droplet transmission such as biting, licking, kissing or spitting there will be increased vigilance of cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.
		Staff and pupils are encouraged to have their pens and pencils to avoid the need to share items that cannot be easily cleaned.
		Unnecessary sharing including the sharing of items that do not contribute to a pupil's education or development is discouraged.
		Staff have been instructed on cleaning and sanitising requirements including the use of chemicals and cleaning materials and instructions on the use of PPE.
		Waste cleaning materials are disposed of in the usual way unless it is confirmed or suspected that they are contaminated as a result of a member of staff or pupil displaying symptoms. School follows the procedures set out in the Government guidance Cleaning in Non-Health Care Settings following a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 on site.
Issue: 4		Contaminated or suspected contaminated waste is double bagged, labelled and stored for 72 hours before being disposed of with general waste.  School Covid-19 Risk Assessment & Checklist.

School Covid-19 Risk Assessment & Checklist Page 5 of 15

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		Where it is not possible to store waste for 72 hours, arrangements will be made for collection by the school's specialist clinical waste contractor.
Personal protective equipment & face coverings		
Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and parents, unless they are exempt.		Staff who are already using PPE to protect against non-COVID- 19 risks, will continue to do so. Use of PPE has been determined by an assessment of risks in the workplace.
Most staff in schools will not require PPE beyond what they		<ul> <li>Staff, parents, visitors are required to wear face coverings in communal areas and on public and dedicated transport to school.</li> </ul>
would normally need for their work. The guidance on the <u>use</u> of <u>PPE in education, childcare and children's social care</u> settings provides more information on the use of <u>PPE for COVID-19</u> .		First Aiders have read and follow the <u>Government guidance for first responders</u> and the <u>HSE Guidance on First Aid during the coronavirus pandemic</u> .
Additional PPE for COVID-19 is only required in a very limited number of scenarios:  • if an individual child, young person or student becomes ill with		When caring for someone with COVID-19 symptoms a face mask should be worn if social distancing cannot be maintained and if contact is necessary, gloves, an apron and a face mask should be worn.
<ul> <li>COVID-19 symptoms and only then if close contact is necessary</li> <li>when performing aerosol generating procedures (AGPs)</li> </ul>		Additional PPE is made available on the shelf in the entrance near the First Aid boxes and Defibrillators.
Non-symptomatic children who present behaviours which may increase the risk of droplet transmission such as biting, licking, kissing or spitting or who require care that cannot be provided without close hands-on contact, should continue to receive care in the same way as before COVID-19, including any existing routine use of PPE.		Disposable gloves, an impermeable apron and a fluid resistant surgical face mask are to be worn when delivering hands on first aid to adults where close contact cannot be avoided. If a risk assessment indicates the likelihood of contamination by splashes, droplets of blood or body fluids, disposable eye protection (such as a face visor or goggles) will be worn.

Issue: 4 Issued by: H&S Team School Covid-19 Risk Assessment & Checklist Page 6 of 15

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No additional PPE should be necessary because staff are dealing with non-symptomatic children in a non-healthcare setting, therefore the risk of viral transmission is very low.  Delivering First Aid to pupils Children and young people who require first aid should continue to receive care in the same way. No additional PPE is needed because of COVID-19 for anyone who does not have symptoms.  First Aiders should familiarise themselves with the Government guidance for first responders and the HSE Guidance on First Aid during the coronavirus pandemic.  The safe removal of PPE is a critical consideration to avoid self-contamination. Staff should familiarise themselves with the Government guidance on the use of personal protective equipment.  Disposal of PPE Disposal of PPE Disposal of used PPE and other waste should be in line with cleaning non-healthcare settings outside the home.  Settings such as special schools that generate clinical waste should continue to follow their usual waste policies.		<ul> <li>Staff are aware of the need to report insufficient levels of PPE to their line manager.</li> <li>Disposable gloves and impermeable aprons must be worn when cleaning areas that have been occupied by someone displaying COVID-19 symptoms.</li> <li>Staff are aware of the arrangements for the safe use and disposal of PPE including face masks/face coverings.</li> <li>Visitors attending school will be kept to a minimum. All will be asked to carry out an LFD test and if negative will be able to attend but must wear a face covering unless exempt.</li> <li>Staff will be required to keep socially distanced from parents and must wear a face covering when talking to them( even when outside)</li> </ul>
Protect people at higher risk of infection		

School Covid-19 Risk Assessment & Checklist Page 7 of 15

Potential hazards & guidance on how to control them	Do you believe the hazard is adequately controlled? Yes or No	Recommended Controls Measures  Control measures must be amended to reflect the circumstances of your workplace by removing, adding, or amending content below.	
There are some groups who are still considered to be at higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. See guidance: <a href="people at higher risk from COVID-19">people at higher risk from COVID-19</a> , protecting people previously considered clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19, HSE guidance protect vulnerable workers during COVID-19 and Government Guidance, Coronavirus (COVID-19): advice for pregnant employees.  On-site provision should in all cases be retained for vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers. If settings must temporarily stop on-site provision on public health advice, they should discuss alternative arrangements for vulnerable children and young people with the Lancashire County Council.  Further information is available in the guidance on <a href="supporting pupils at school with medical conditions">supporting pupils at school with medical conditions</a> .  Extra consideration needs to be given to workers facing mental and physical health difficulties. Those previously considered clinically extremely vulnerable are no longer advised to shield but must continue to be supported by discussing with them their individual needs and supporting them in taking any additional precautions advised by their clinical specialist.  Please refer to <a href="Government Guidance">Government Guidance</a> , Coronavirus (COVID-19): advice for pregnant employees.		<ul> <li>The school works closely with parents of children previously considered extremely clinically vulnerable to support a return to school, carrying out an individual risk assessment as necessary.</li> <li>An individual risk assessment has been completed for any staff member who has significant risk factors or who is experiencing mental health issues due to COVID-19.</li> <li>A new &amp; expectant mother risk assessment and individual COVID-19 risk assessment has been completed for any pregnant staff.</li> </ul>	
Reduce the spread of COVID-19 by ensuring people isolate when they are legally required to do so			

Issue: 4 Issued by: H&S Team School Covid-19 Risk Assessment & Checklist Page 8 of 15

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Close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. Managers and employees should refer to the government guidance NHS Test and Trace in the workplace.  An individual is legally required to self-isolate if they  • have tested positive for COVID-19  • have COVID-19 symptoms  • live in a household with someone who has symptoms, unless they're exempt from self-isolation  • have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace  Close contacts without symptoms are exempt from self-isolation if:  • they are fully vaccinated  • aged under 18 and 6 months  • they are taking part in a vaccine trial  • are not vaccinated for medical reasons  Instead, they will be advised to take an LFD test every day for 7 days. Anyone who's LFD test comes back positive should isolate and take a confirmatory PCR test to verify the result.  Children under 5 years are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts.  Refer to the latest government guidance Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (Covid-19) infection for further information.		<ul> <li>School will follow the guidance in the latest PHE (Lancashire) Schools Resource Pack which provides advice on managing positive cases and who to contact for help.</li> <li>Staff and pupils are required to stay at home if they have COVID-19 symptoms and to seek a confirmation PCR test.</li> <li>If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and advised to take a PCR test. Any staff displaying symptoms will be mindful not to come into contact with other staff. Any rooms they have used will be cleaned after they have left.</li> <li>If a pupil is awaiting collection, they will be left in a room on their own if possible and safe to do so Appropriate PPE will be used if close contact is necessary. Any rooms they have used will be cleaned after they have left.</li> <li>Staff and pupils (aged 6 and over) identified as a close contact by NHS Test &amp; Trace will be advised to take an LFD test every day for 7 days.</li> <li>Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test will be required to isolate and take a confirmatory PCR test. Staff and pupils with a positive PCR result will be required to self-isolate for 10 days and will be supported to do so.</li> <li>Customers, visitors and contractors are instructed not to attend site if they are displaying symptoms and will be required to take a LFD test before attending the site.</li> </ul>

School Covid-19 Risk Assessment & Checklist Page 9 of 15

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Asymptomatic testing		
Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. That is why, whilst some measures are relaxed, others will remain.  As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school pupils should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term.  Staff should undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site  Additional information on PCR test kits for schools and further education providers is available.  The government sharing platform provides information and guidance for schools on testing arrangements.		<ul> <li>Staff are required to undertake twice weekly home LFD tests.</li> <li>Staff and pupils who have a positive LFD test are required to self-isolate and to seek a confirmation PCR test.</li> </ul>
Reduce the risk of transmission through vaccination		
Vaccines are the best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on.		<ul> <li>All eligible staff and students are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters.</li> <li>Parents are strongly encouraged to engage with the national vaccination programme.</li> </ul>

School Covid-19 Risk Assessment & Checklist Page 10 of 15

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To book a vaccination, please visit: Book or manage a coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination – NHS (www.nhs.uk).		
Reduce the risk for visitors and contractors		
Provide clear guidance on how to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 to people when they arrive.  Coordinate and cooperate with other occupiers, where the site and facilities are shared including landlords and other tenants.		Site guidance on minimising social contact and hygiene will be explained to visitors, parents/carers and contractors on or before arrival, including sanitising, handwashing, limiting close contact, not entering if symptomatic etc.
Reduce the spread of COVID-19 during Educational Visits		
The travel list (and broader international travel policy) is subject to change and green list countries may be moved into amber or red. The travel lists may change during a visit and you must comply with international travel legislation and should have contingency plans in place to account for these changes.  You should undertake full and thorough risk assessments in relation to all educational visits and ensure that any public health advice, such as hygiene and ventilation requirements, is included as part of that risk assessment.		<ul> <li>International travel legislation will be complied with and contingency plans put in place to take into account the possible short notice changes to travel policy and restrictions.</li> <li>A full and thorough risk assessment will be completed taking account of any public health advice, such as hygiene and ventilation requirements. The risk assessment will be approved depending on the visit type, either by the school/nursery or LCCs Educational Visits Team via Evolve prior to the visit taking place.</li> <li>Risk assessments will consider contingency arrangements for a number of possibilities including staff baying to self-isolate or</li> </ul>
Risk assessments should consider contingency arrangements for a number of possibilities including a participant developing COVID-19 symptoms during the visit or a member of staff having to self-isolate and being unable to attend.		number of possibilities including staff having to self-isolate or participants developing COVID symptoms whilst on the visit.  • The school will liaise with the venue/activity provider as part of the risk assessment process to ensure it has made its own assessment of the risk of COVID-19 and implemented suitable controls

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General guidance about educational visits is available and is supported by specialist advice from the Outdoor Education Advisory Panel (OEAP).		measures to prevent infection. Preliminary visits to the venue will be carried out if deemed necessary to check measures are place.
Keep pupils and staff safe when travelling		
Up to date <u>guidance on COVID-19 and school travel</u> is available from the School Transport team.		The control measures for dedicated transport have been aligned as far as possible with the principles underpinning the system of controls set out in school including ventilation, cleaning and hygiene.
		When travelling on public or dedicated transport pupils, staff and parents are required to wear a face covering.
Managing a COVID-19 outbreak in school		
Please refer to PHE North West Schools Resource Pack for advice on managing COVID-19 cases and outbreaks		An outbreak management plan is in place outlining how the school will operate if there is an outbreak in the school or local area.
For support on outbreak management please contact;  COVID19-HealthProtection@lancashire.gov.uk		Support is obtained as required from relevant teams including Lancashire Public Health Education Outbreak Management team.
School should have contingency plans outlining what action to take if pupils or staff test positive for COVID-19, or how school would operate if advised to take extra measures to help break chains of transmission.  Guidance on what to include in contingency framework and information on what circumstances might lead to additional action, and the steps to work through, are contained the		<ul> <li>School continues to record COVID-19 related absence in accordance with the information contained within the PHE North West Schools Resource Pack.</li> <li>In the event of an outbreak any staff required to work from home will be supported to do so including ensuring they have suitable equipment, developing appropriate communication channels and looking after their physical and mental wellbeing.</li> </ul>

School Covid-19 Risk Assessment & Checklist Page 12 of 15

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government guidance Contingency framework: education and childcare settings August 2021.		<ul> <li>A homeworking checklist and risk assessment has been completed for any staff working from home for a prolonged period which is reviewed on a 3-monthly basis.</li> <li>Remote learning platforms are in place and parents and pupils have been provided with details and passwords of how to access these.</li> </ul>
Communication, consultation and training		
Employers have a legal duty to consult workers on health and safety matters.  To help workers feel safe returning to work employers should consult with them on any health and safety measures that have been put in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading.  Schools continue to engage with staff (including through trade unions and employee representative groups) to monitor and understand any unforeseen impacts of changes to working environments.		<ul> <li>Clear and up to date information and guidance on how to manage the risks associated with COVID-19 is available via the schools portal and Government website.</li> <li>Staff are consulted when considering local arrangements.</li> <li>Signage, posters and other instructions use simple, clear messaging to explain guidelines using images and clear language, with consideration of groups for which English may not be their first language.</li> </ul>
Stress & Anxiety		
Mental health is important, especially during times of uncertainty. The government has published guidance on the mental health and wellbeing aspects of coronavirus (COVID-19).  The Department for Education is providing additional support for both pupil and staff wellbeing in the current situation. Information		<ul> <li>The Headteacher and other senior staff monitor working arrangements and offer support and advice where necessary.</li> <li>A procedure is available for individuals to report concerns over breaches of school safe working policy/guidelines so that intervention can occur.</li> </ul>

School Covid-19 Risk Assessment & Checklist Page 13 of 15

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about the extra mental health support for pupils and teachers is available.  The Education Support Partnership provides a free helpline for school staff and targeted support for mental health and wellbeing.		<ul> <li>A <u>risk assessment addressing COVID-19 concerns for an employee</u> has been completed for any member of staff raising concerns about their safety or well-being and appropriate control measures identified and implemented.</li> <li>Staff are made aware of sources of information via the school portal that will assist their wellbeing such as:         <ul> <li><u>Employee Wellbeing</u></li> <li><u>MIND web site</u></li> <li><u>H&amp;S COVID-19 web page</u></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## **ACTION PLAN - Further action / controls required**

Hazard	Action required	Person(s) to undertake action?	Priority	Projected time scale	Notes / comments	Date completed
Ventilation Checklist	Health and Safety adviser to check over checklist	TW and Debbie(H and S)	Hlgh	immediate		Sept 21

ISSUE NO: 4	
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