

<b>Coronavirus (COVID-19) Risk Assessment</b>		
<b>Establishment:</b> Mourne Independent Christian School	<b>Assessment by:</b> Hazel Campbell	<b>Date:</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
<b>Review Date:</b> 10-09-2021		

<b>Focus</b>	<b>Area of consideration</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Risks and levels of risk</b>
<b>Children</b>	<b>Drop off</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social distancing to be adhered to at all times.</li> <li>• Parents to drop and pick up the children in playground</li> <li>• Parents and children are to remain in their cars until the teachers signals it is time for them to come in, allowing one family at a time to enter.</li> <li>• A member of staff will be at the door to welcome children. Bags to go onto chairs and lunch boxes onto desks in classrooms.</li> <li>• Parents are to leave the grounds promptly after dropping off children. Parents are to demonstrate social distancing at all times.</li> <li>• Only children who are symptom free or have completed the required isolation period attend the setting</li> <li>• Limited toys, teddies, etc to be brought to setting.</li> <li>• Children to enter the setting and staff to ensure they wash hands thoroughly on arrival at the setting, before eating and after use of toilet facilities.</li> <li>• Encourage children to avoid touching their face, eyes, nose and mouth.</li> <li>• Special consideration to apply to those who are clinically vulnerable, in regards to social distancing.</li> <li>• Any child having Covid-19 symptoms (in which case parents should book a PCR test and support the child to isolate with close contacts of the child, following PHA protocols for self-isolation) is not to attend the setting and school to be</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents or pupils spread the virus to other families</li> <li>• Risk of spreading of the virus</li> <li>• These items might carry the virus; however, PHA states there is a relatively low risk of virus transmission associated with surface contacts and items do not need to be quarantined after they have been in a pupil's home.</li> <li>• New advice that all pupils should wash their hands upon arrival at school each day, as well as regularly throughout the day – rather than just hand sanitising upon entry.</li> <li>• The spread of the virus through touching.</li> <li>• They will be putting themselves in danger of contracting the virus.</li> <li>• It may be coronavirus.</li> </ul>

		<p>informed re outcome of test. Any child identified as a close contact – either as a household member of a symptomatic or confirmed case – or as a close contact of a case not in their household is not to attend the setting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents are not to enter the school building.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The more people allowed into the building, the greater the likelihood of spreading the virus.</li> </ul>
	<b>Physical distancing/grouping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s classes will be organised in Key Stage groups, wherever possible these small groups or “bubbles” should not mix during the week.</li> <li>• The use of communal internal spaces should be restricted as much as possible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From 16<sup>th</sup> August, schools are no longer required to operate a system of formal protective bubbles; however, to maintain a ‘cautious and measured approach’.</li> <li>• The spread of the virus onto surfaces other children will use.</li> </ul>
	<b>Indoor environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-way system implemented to reduce contact</li> <li>• Maximised ventilation of all indoor spaces, as much as practical; doors and windows open, wherever possible, and opened more fully during breaks to purge the air in the space.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Violin Lessons</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tutor will sanitise hands as he enters the building; he will adhere to social distancing and will wear a mask, if he cannot maintain social distancing or if desired; he will sanitise his hands prior to tuning pupils’ violins or wear disposable gloves; he sanitises hands before exiting the building; teachers sign the tutor in and out of the building for contact tracing and fire safety purposes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-contamination.</li> </ul>
	<b>Play and Learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement social distancing where possible through use of small groups</li> <li>• Minimise the resources available to those that can be cleaned effectively.</li> <li>• Ensure children wash hands regularly, throughout the day, as well as before eating, after coughing or sneezing. Children are encouraged to ‘Catch it, Kill it, Bin it!’</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The risk of virus lingering on surfaces for 72 hours or more; however, pupils allowed to share resources, e.g. library books, as risk of virus transmission relatively low.</li> <li>• PHA – Schools are not required to quarantine items either after shared use in classroom or after they have been in a pupil’s home. If individual has tested positive and used resources while symptomatic, taking those resources out of use</li> </ul>

			for a few days further reduces the already small risk of infection from surfaces.
	<b>Children's Wellbeing and Education.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children should be supported in developing, mentally, appropriate ways to understand the steps they can take to keep themselves safe, including regular hand washing and sneezing into a tissue.</li> <li>• Pupils must have a supply of their own tissues to follow this policy.</li> <li>• Children should be supported to understand the changes and challenges they may be encountering as a result of COVID-19 and staff need to ensure they are aware of children's attachments and their need for emotional support at this time.</li> <li>• Pupils to sanitise hands before use of play equipment to minimise risk.</li> <li>• Minimise contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The risk is that children have fear</li> </ul>
	<b>Toileting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit number of children using sinks, and bathrooms at any given time due to staggered schedule at break and lunch times.</li> <li>• Children should not attend if unwell.</li> <li>• Use of disposable towels to dry hands, as recommended by PHA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk of cross-contamination</li> </ul>
	<b>Singing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DofE - School choirs/groups 'can take place in a well-ventilated room' but social distancing must be respected. Singing within class bubbles does not require pupils to observe social distancing.</li> <li>• Piano to be sanitised after use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soft singing of only one hymn/chorus each day in Morning Worship. Pupils allocated seating which is socially distanced. Doors open and/or windows open to ensure ventilation.</li> </ul>
	<b>Testing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lateral Flow Device testing is available to all school staff and post-primary pupils. Participants to test twice each week during school terms and upload their results to online portal so results can be collated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testing is voluntary and no pupil will be issued tests unless informed consent has been given by the child's parent or guardian, or if the child is over 16 and wishes to be tested. Consent forms sent on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>If a pupil starts displaying symptoms</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a child begins displaying a continuous cough or a high temperature, the child's temperature will be taken using a non-contact thermometer. He/She and any members of their household within the school setting should be sent home and follow the PHA guidance, e.g. book a PCR test. Child is to stay home, while awaiting result. School will keep a full record of such actions and request that a parent, carer or guardian record their acknowledgement of this action. PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while he/she awaits collection, if direct personal care is needed and a distance of 2m cannot be maintained. If the child is seriously ill or their life is at risk, school will call 999.</li> <li>• A child awaiting collection should be moved, if possible and appropriate, to a well-ventilated room where they can be isolated.</li> <li>• If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, the bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.</li> <li>• If a member of staff has helped someone who displayed symptoms they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after contact with someone who is unwell.</li> <li>• Where a case of confirmed COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has been reported in a person with links to a school setting, all close contacts of the case who need to take specific actions with regard to testing and self-isolation will be identified, contacted and advised by the Public Health Agency (PHA) Contact Tracing Service.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk of the spread of virus throughout the school.</li> <li>• School will fully document this process to ensure a record is held of who made the decision, where quarantine occurred, who was contacted, who provided supervision, the duration of the quarantine and who picked up the child.</li> <li>• Poor hygiene could encourage the spread of the virus.</li> </ul>
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<b>Workforce</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff should only attend school if they are symptom free, have completed the required isolation period or achieved a negative test result. A person who has symptoms (whether vaccinated or not) must immediately isolate and book a PCR test.</li> <li>If staff member is not fully vaccinated and a member of their household/close contact tests positive or is displaying symptoms of Covid-19, they must self-isolate immediately and follow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk is staff spreading the virus to other members of staff and pupils.</li> </ul>

		<p>PHA advice, i.e. take PCR test and stay at home for 10 full days of isolation, even if negative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If someone they live with/close contact has symptoms of Covid-19 or has tested positive, they will not need to self-isolate if they are fully vaccinated. (This means 14 days have passed since final dose of Covid-19 vaccine.) Even if staff member does not have symptoms, they should still: get PCR test on day 2 and day 8 of the 10 day period, following last contact with the positive person; follow advice on how to avoid spreading Covid-19; and, consider limiting contact with people who are at higher risk from Covid-19.</li> <li>• If member of staff is a close contact who is fully vaccinated and has had a positive PCR test within 90 days of date of contact, they do not need to self-isolate or book tests at day 2 and day 8; however, if he/she develops symptoms, he/she must isolate and book PCR test.</li> <li>• Staff with underlying conditions unable to work as normal</li> <li>• Risk assessing for returning staff</li> </ul>	
<b>Workforce</b>	<b>Well-being</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff will be focused on children and cleaning throughout the day.</li> <li>• Socialisation and interaction will be different with a limit to contact with other adults. Face-to-face staff meetings in school are permitted provided other suitable Covid-19 mitigations are in place – well-ventilated room and 2m between adults.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk is the spreading of the virus from outside sources.</li> </ul>
<b>Food preparation, snack and lunches</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff and children MUST wash hands before prep or eating.</li> <li>• Staff and children MUST wash hands after eating.</li> <li>• Children and adults to be responsible for their own food rubbish.</li> <li>• Staff are not to handle children’s food. This involves peeling etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk is the spreading of the virus by ingestion.</li> </ul>

	<b>Physical distancing/grouping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wherever possible, staff should remain with the small group of children, the “bubble” of children, who they are allocated to.</li> <li>• Social distancing will be encouraged during breaks.</li> <li>• Staff members should avoid physical contact with each other including handshakes, hugs etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk of spreading the virus through physical contact.</li> </ul>
	<b>Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All staff members must receive appropriate instruction and training of infection control and the standard operation procedure and risk assessments within which they will be operate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk of any member of staff being unaware of procedures put in place to minimise the spread of the virus.</li> </ul>
<b>Parents, committee and visitors</b>	<b>Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents should receive clear communication regarding the role they play in safe operating procedures and all measures being taken to ensure the safety of their children and themselves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk is any parent being unaware of procedures put in place to minimise the spread of the virus.</li> </ul>
<b>Visits</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance to the setting should be restricted to children and staff as far as practically possible and visitors are permitted and ‘should carry out their work in line with their organisation’s policy for adhering to the relevant COVID-19 guidance’.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk of spreading the virus from outside sources.</li> <li>• Visitors to the school to be made aware of the mitigations implemented within the school setting.</li> </ul>
<b>PPE</b>	<b>Both workforce and children</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-primary pupils to ‘wear a face covering at all times when inside school buildings, including classrooms, corridors and confined communal spaces such as toilet areas’. ‘However, for subjects where social distancing is possible, such as. . . in a large hall, face coverings are no longer required’. They should also ‘use a face covering when moving indoors’. School realises that some staff and pupils are exempt or have a reasonable excuse and will exercise sensitivity towards this.</li> <li>• Staff encouraged ‘to wear a face covering where they are not able to maintain a 2m social distance from other staff or pupils’. Staff to wear face covering when moving around the building.</li> <li>• ‘Outside of the classroom setting, where a 2m distance cannot be maintained from other</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applies until 8<sup>th</sup> October; subject to review on this date.</li> <li>• Pupils will be given mask breaks throughout the school day.</li> <li>• Risk of spreading the virus to other pupils and members of staff.</li> </ul>

		<p>persons either indoors or outdoors on a school site, all adults should be encouraged to wear a face covering. This includes communal staff areas and for all adults visiting the school site.’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus.</li> <li>• PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ If a child, young person becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Cleaning</b>	<b>Undertake regular cleaning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces throughout the day. This includes tables, chairs, resources, equipment, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, toilets, taps, and sinks.</li> <li>• Wear one pair of disposable gloves for cleaning and dispose of immediately after cleaning.</li> <li>• Using a disposable cloth, clean hard surfaces with warm soapy water, then disinfect these surfaces with the cleaning products you normally use.</li> <li>• Wash hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds, and after removing gloves, aprons and other protection used while cleaning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk of the virus remaining on frequently touched surfaces.</li> </ul>
	<b>Cleaning of electronics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regularly clean electronics, such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards, telephones and remote controls throughout the day.</li> <li>• Pupils use hand sanitiser before using ‘shared resources’.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk of the virus remaining on frequently touched surfaces.</li> </ul>
	<b>Disposal of potentially contaminated waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste from possible cases and cleaning of areas where possible cases have been, should be double bagged and put in a suitable secure place, marked for storage until:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk of contamination.</li> </ul>

		➤ The individual tests positive or results not known; then store it for at least 72 hours and put in with the normal waste.	
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<b>REVIEWED BY: Principals</b>	<b>COMMENTS:</b>
	It is our recommendation that we review information on a regular basis in line with government regulations. Risk assessment will be adapted accordingly.