

COVID-19: Checklist & model risk assessment for reopening of school premise after lockdown.

**Schools Safety Guide**

Document information

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| Document title | COVID-19: Checklist & model risk assessment for reopening of school premise after lockdown SSG | | |
| Owner | SMBC - Corporate Health & Safety Unit | | |
| Status | Live | Version | 1 |
| Effective from | 15th May 2020 | Approved on | 15th May 2020 |
| Last updated | 15th May 2020 | Last updated by | HSU/TH |
| Review date | 1st June 2020 | | |
| Purpose | To give schools SLT direction, guidance and advise on how to ensure schools are safely re-opened following the COVID-19 lockdown period | | |

# Introduction

The Government are now moving to a new phase in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The expectation being that businesses will now start to reopen, and employees will start returning to the workplace. All this is with the caveat that it is safe to do so, and that the “R number” (rate by which an infected person transmits to others) does not significantly increase.

Schools have been included in this phase and asked to reopen to certain year groups on June 1st, as part of a staggered return to full occupancy.

This school safety guide (SSG) should be read in conjunction with the latest Government guidelines for schools that are re-opening during the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular;

* [Opening schools and educational settings to more pupils from 1 June: guidance for parents and carers](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june).
* [Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings#contents)
* [Actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020)

It is anticipated that the Government will be updating these guides and producing additional guidance over the coming days and weeks. Therefore, it is important that school leadership make regular visits to the [Government website](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) that is aimed specifically at schools and other educational settings.

# Checklist & Risk Assessment

This SSG comes in two distinct parts;

## Checklist

[**Part 1**](#_Part_1:_H&S) is a “checklist” prompt form to assist schools in ensuring all health & safety issues have been considered prior to reopening of the premises. This should be completed prior to the risk assessment.

Further guidance on the statutory testing of plant & equipment can be found in the [school premise logbook](https://www.payroll-hr.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/School-Premise-Log-Book-2019.pdf).

## Template model risk assessment

[**Part 2**](#_Part_2:_Template) is a template/model risk assessment that schools can adapt and adopt. As with all our model risk assessments, any red font will need to be read, amended where appropriate to ensure it is school specific.

Further guidance on the risk assessment process can be found in the [Risk Assessment SMP](https://www.payroll-hr.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Risk-Assessment-SMP-2018.pdf).

# Further information

If you require any further information, please contact the health & safety unit via our shared email address: [health\_safety@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:health_safety@sandwell.gov.uk).

## 

## Part 2: H&S Checklist

Conducted by: **Lucy Blackmore** Date: **04.06.20**

| Areas to consider | Y | N | N/A | Evidence/Comments | Further actions? | Who & When? |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Health & safety/statutory issues | | | | | | |
| Have all health & safety compliance checks of plant & equipment been completed prior to opening?  (This can be done through referencing of the [School Premise Logbook](https://www.payroll-hr.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/School-Premise-Log-Book-2019.pdf) or equivalent) | Y |  |  | The School Premise Log book is updated continually. | Keep log book updated. | Site Manager  Ongoing |
| Are there sufficient numbers of staff available in safety critical roles?  (e.g. fire marshals, first aid personnel etc) | Y |  |  | Yes, we have sufficient numbers of fire marshals, teachers, Level 3 Child Protection trained staff, cleaners and first aiders. | No | Head teacher |
| Will a test of emergency procedures (e.g. fire drill) be carried out in the first week of school reopening? | Y |  |  | It will be completed the first week to check but a fire drill will also happen on 30th June when all 4 year groups are in. | No | Site Manager |
| Social distancing issues | | | | | | |
| Have small class groups been organised as per Government guidance? | Y |  |  | The maximum number in a class is 10. There will be two adults in each class – a teacher and support member of staff. | No | Senior Leaders |
| Have classrooms and other learning environments been organised to allow for social distancing? | Y |  |  | Yes all tables have been organised so children are following social distance rules and it is a safe environment for the adults that are working in there. | No | HT and SM |
| Has consideration been given to arranging which lessons or classroom activities could take place outdoors? | Y |  |  | The HT and DHT discussed options and devised the plan of action. | Evaluate the provision every Monday whilst the year groups are returning. | HT and DHT |
| Has movement around the school been reduced?  (e.g. use of timetable, selection of classroom etc) | Y |  |  | Yes, the children and staff will remain in their classrooms apart from going to the toilet, walking to the exit and walking there and back to the KS2 playground. The classes that will be in operation are clustered together so only part of the school building will be operational. Exits have been chosen that are close to the classroom doors. | Evaluate the daily movement on an informal basis and make changes accordingly. | HT and DHT |
| Are there adequate signs/floor markings (e.g. one way, foot marks, hazard tape etc) in key areas to clearly identify the social distancing rules? | Y |  |  | There is clear signage throughout the school. | This will be continually updated through the site as the term progresses. | Site Manager |
| Have assembly groups been staggered? |  |  | N/A | There will not be any assemblies. | None | N/A |
| Have break times (including lunch) been staggered? | Y |  |  | Yes there are staggered through the day to prevent class social bubbles from being in contact. | Evaluate informally as each year group returns and change as necessary. | Leadership Team and SM |
| Have drop off and collection times been staggered? | Y |  |  | Yes, we have staggered times by 10 minutes for each class and communicated this with parents. | No | HT and DHT |
| Have parents drop off and pick up protocols been revised to minimise adult to adult contact? | Y |  |  | There is a one-way system around the school site. Parents have to keep 2m away from each other whilst waiting to drop off and collect their child. | No | HT and SM |
| Have all unnecessary items been removed from classrooms and stored elsewhere? | Y |  |  | This has been completed. | No | Cleaners and SM |
| Infection control issues | | | | | | |
| Have alternative arrangements been made for those adults/children who fall into the extremely vulnerable or vulnerable categories? | Y |  |  | We are following government and Local Authority advice | No | HT |
| Have all soft furnishing/toys etc that are hard to clean been removed? | Y |  |  | Reception children have been relocated to Y2 to reduce the amount of toys that are available to use. They have a plastic Marvel toy to play with. | This will be reviewed as the weeks progress, in particular the start of Nursery children on the 22nd June. | Y1, Rec and Nursery Teachers |
| Has a “deep clean” been conducted of any areas of the schools that have been out of action/mothballed since the lockdown? | Y |  |  | The school has been deep cleaned once and the areas of the school that have been used have been deep cleaned twice. | Deep cleans to be organised at the end of the term. Regular cleaning twice a day in the meantime. | Cleaners and SM |
| Is there an enhanced cleaning regime of common contact points in place (e.g. door handles, push bars, desks, whiteboards, etc)? | Y |  |  | These are cleaned continually through the day. | No | Cleaners and SM |
| Are additional cleaning materials (e.g. wipes) available for use of shared equipment (e.g. kettle, microwave, printers, computer keyboards, pens/pencils, paint brushes, etc)? | Y |  |  | All available from the Site Manager. | Site Manager to replenish stocks when needed. | SM |
| Is there a good supply of liquid soap and alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) available for pupils and adults? | Y |  |  | We will monitor levels of these key products and buy more when needed. | No | SM and office staff |
| Is there a ready supply of tissues for pupils and adults? | Y |  |  | There are tissues in every classroom. | No | SM |
| Is contaminated waste disposed of regularly and appropriately? | Y |  |  | PHS collect our clinical waste on a regular basis. We have weekly bin collections. | No | SM |
| Is an isolation room available should an adult or pupil become symptomatic whilst at school? | Y |  |  | Yes, we have the Sensory room available. | No | SM |
| Communication of Plans | | | | | | |
| Have parents been informed of the drop-off and pick up protocols? | Y |  |  | They have received two letters (one emailed and one posted) and numerous text messages. | No | HT and office staff |
| Are parents and young people aware of recommendations on transport to and from education or childcare setting (including avoiding peak times)? | Y |  |  | Parents have been informed by a Head teachers letter. | No | HT and office staff |
| Are parents clear that they cannot gather at entrance gates or doors, or enter the site (unless they have a pre-arranged appointment, which should be conducted safely)? | Y |  |  | There is signage displayed around the school. | No | HT, SM, Leadership Team and office staff |
| Are parents clear that if their child needs to be accompanied to the education or childcare setting, only one parent should attend? | Y |  |  | This has been communicated to them in letters and text messages. | No | HT and office staff |
| Have staff been briefed about the plans (for example, safety measures, timetable changes and staggered arrival and departure times), including discussing whether training would be helpful? | Y |  |  | The risk assessments will be emailed to them. There will also be a daily briefing the first week back and weekly meetings thereafter to make sure plans are up to date and effective for everyone. | To continually evaluate the provision, we are providing to make it as effective as possible.  Remind staff our curriculum is to make the children feel safe and happy. | Leadership Team |

## Part 2: Template /Model RA

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Risk Assessment for: Re-opening of Premise after COVID-19 lockdown | | | | School: Ryders Green Primary School | |
| Assessment Date**:** | **20/5/2020** | Name of Assessor(s)**:** | **Lucy Blackmore/Dave Wiley** | | Assessment Ref No**: LB/DWC19** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Likelihood** | |
| 1 | Very unlikely |
| 2 | Unlikely |
| 3 | Likely |
| 4 | Very likely |
| 5 | Certain |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Severity:** | |
| 1 | No Lost time |
| 2 | Under 7-day injury or illness |
| 3 | Over 7-day injury or illness (RIDDOR) |
| 4 | Specified injury or illness (RIDDOR) |
| 5 | Fatality, disabling injury or illness |

**Risk Matrix scoring guide:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **High (15-25)** | These risks are unacceptable; significant improvements in risk control are required. **The activity should be halted with immediate effect** until risk controls are identified/implemented that reduce the risk to an acceptable level |
| **Medium (5-12)** | Additional control measures should be identified and implemented to reduce the risks associated with the activity or workplace so far as reasonably practicable |
| **Low (1-4)** | Minimal control measures are required to be implemented to satisfy the level of risk. Maintain current arrangements for risk control |

| **Hazard** | **Who might be harmed and how?** | **CONTROL MEASURES**  **(existing workplace precautions/risk control systems in place)** | **What further action is required?** | **By Who and When?** | **Residual Risk rating** | | | **Date completed** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **L** | **S** | **R** |
| Utilities, plant & equipment has not been inspected / serviced within the recommended timescales | Teaching, non-teaching staff, children, cleaners, cooks, parents, visitors, contractors  Legionella, electrocution, CO2 exposure, burns, cuts, bruises, broken bones etc | * School has a scheme of works whereby competent contractors are engaged to carry out statutory testing/inspection of all plant and equipment. * Pre-use visual checks are carried out by the user on all equipment. * All little used outlets of water have been regularly/will be flushed prior to school reopening. * Any plant/equipment that has been “mothballed” during the lockdown, will be/has been inspected/checked by a competent person before coming back into use, and before reopening the school. | * Where extensions/exemptions have been granted by the HSE, a specific risk assessment for continued use of the plant/equipment has been completed. * Any defects or faults are reported, and equipment taken out of use. * All equipment is up to date with the scheme of works and inspection   Refer to [School Premise Logbook](https://www.payroll-hr.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/School-Premise-Log-Book-2019.pdf) for further guidance. |  | 2 | 4 | 8 |  |
| Lack of persons in safety critical roles (e.g. first aiders, fire marshals, etc) due to self-isolation and/or shielding. | Teaching, non-teaching staff, children, cleaners, cooks, parents, visitors, contractors  Illness, infection, fatality | * Fire risk assessment kept under constant review. * First aid needs assessment regularly reviewed. * Number of pupils and adults on site will not exceed the number of persons required to carry out safety critical roles as per the relevant assessments. | * Fire drill practiced first week back to ensure school can be evacuated safely (considering social distancing at assembly point) with new working arrangements. * If numbers of those in safety critical roles falls below that required by the assessments, then overall school numbers will be decreased for the time they are off/until substitutes can be trained.   Refer to [Fire Safety SSG](https://www.payroll-hr.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Fire-SSG.pdf) & [First Aid SSG](https://www.payroll-hr.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/First-Aid-SSG.pdf) for further guidance | HT – 1st week of June.  SLT – as and when need arises | 1 | 5 | 5 |  |
| Unable to meet social distancing rules and the virus is transmitted from person to person | Teaching, non-teaching staff, children, cleaners, cooks, parents, visitors, contractors  Illness – flu like symptoms through to fatality. | * School drop-off/collection times are staggered to minimise numbers. * Drop-off/collection zones have been clearly marked with tape/paint to encourage social distancing. * Separate entrance and exit routes are in place. * Smaller class sizes, re-arranged furniture (preferably not face to face seating arrangements) and clear markings/signage to allow for "social distancing" space between pupils and adults during lessons wherever possible. * Assembly groups are staggered. * Break and lunch times are staggered and supervised to minimise numbers and allow for social distancing. * One-way system in place around the school to minimise close contact between adults and pupils. * Foot marks and/or tape has been used in key areas of the school (e.g. dining hall) to show “social distancing” lengths and no access areas. * Playground has been marked to encourage social distancing. * Parents/carers can only visit the school by appointment. * Regulate access to areas where it is difficult to maintain social distancing (Toilets, stairwells, storage rooms etc) limit to 1-person access at a time for example * Communicate new ways of working to all staff, through posters, briefings etc. | * When weather allows, lessons will be conducted outside of the classroom. * Message sent to parents prior to school opening that outlines the new regime (e.g. maximum 1 adult per child) and importance of them sticking to the protocols. * A one way drop off/pick up system put in place around the school * Teacher to control the flow of students and adults to the toilets, one in-one out | Teaching staff – daily  HT – prior to 1st June | 3 | 4 | 12 |  |
| Lack of hand and respiratory hygiene practices and/or facilities | As above | * All staff and pupils made aware of the “catch it, bin it, kill it” protocol via signage posters around the school. * All toilets and handwashing stations have liquid soap available. * Additional hand hygiene stations with alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) available at all entry points and other key areas around the school. * Use of [e-bug](https://e-bug.eu/) learning resources to promote and teach pupils the importance of good hygiene practices. * Reception desk/area has Perspex screen/barrier. * Enhanced/regular cleaning schedule in place that concentrates on common touch areas (e.g. door handles, bannisters, etc) * Supply of detergent and/or antibacterial wipes available for adults and pupils to clean any areas/equipment they occupy/use before and after each use. * Provide wipes for cleaning shared equipment after each use (printers, staff room equipment - kettles, toasters etc) * Any contaminated waste (used tissues etc) is disposed of appropriately (double bagged and held for 72 hours prior to putting in the bin) and regularly taken away. | * Daily briefings during assembly to remind pupils of the importance of good hygiene practices. * Regular checks made to ensure there is sufficient stock of soap. * Regular checks made to ensure there is sufficient ABHR each day. * Windows to be opened each morning in classrooms to allow for a free flow of fresh air. * All classrooms and toilets cleaned at lunch times   Refer to Government guidance on [Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities) for further information. | HT – Daily  Caretaker / Premise Manager/ Cleaners | 2 | 4 | 8 |  |
| New way of working (including working from home) leading to feeling a lack of supervision, interaction, support and social isolation. | Teaching, non-teaching staff, pupils.  Anxiety, depression, stress, poor mental health & wellbeing | * Keep in touch (KIT) meetings regularly organised to ensure staff are supported. * Managers to ensure employees are aware of the following advice: * Ensure that all adults have regular breaks and are encouraged to pay regard to their work/life balance. * Changes in new school protocols explained to children and individual support made available when/if needed. * Arrangements in place for employees to access a confidential counselling service. * Schools stress risk assessment has been reviewed regularly throughout the pandemic. | * Refer to [Stress SSG](https://www.payroll-hr.co.uk/health-and-safety/health-safety-downloads/) for more information. |  | 3 | 4 | 12 |  |
| Inability to maintain social distancing when dealing with accidents | Teaching, non-teaching staff, children, cleaners, cooks, parents, visitors, contractors  Illness – flu like symptoms through to fatality. | * Safety of the injured/affected to be prioritised during incidents * 2m social distancing is not required when attending to emergency situations * People aiding others during an emergency should pay particular attention to sanitation immediately after the situation (washing hands). | * All first aiders to wear PPE when dealing with first aid incident * All gloves changed after incident and disposed of * Bandages etc placed in the bodily fluid bin and taken away asap * Area where the accident was deep cleaned after the incident | First aider, Site manager | 3 | 3 | 9 |  |
| Child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus and requires personal care. | Teaching, non-teaching staff, first aider, etc  Illness – flu like symptoms through to fatality. | PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:   * if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if 2 meters cannot be maintained. * If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. * If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn | * A designated quarantine room will be identified for separating student/adult * The room will be left for 72 hours after the student/adult has left and deep cleaned after that. |  | 3 | 4 | 12 |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Assessment reviewed [Date]: | Reviewed by [Name]: | Comments: |
| 19/05/20 | LUCY BLACKMORE |  |
| 01/06/20 | DAVID WILEY |  |
| 04/06/20 | LUCY BLACKMORE |  |