



School response to a Pandemic

Warstones Primary would continue operating as normally as possible during a pandemic, but would plan for much higher than usual levels of staff absence.

- Children are highly efficient 'spreaders' of respiratory infections; when more is known about the nature of a pandemic strain of virus, the Government may advise schools to close.
- The School would, therefore, plan both for remaining open during a pandemic and for possible closure.
- Wherever possible, the school would remain open to full-time pupils, even in the event of the School being closed to pupils in Nursery.
- If the School were too close to pupils, staff should come into School as normal, unless ill.
- If Government advice stated that schools should close, the Headteacher would take the final decision on whether to close the School.

Ref'	Generic actions - initial response	Tick / sign / time
P1	<p>Consider whether any mitigation measures are possible, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partially opening the school to some pupils ▪ Asking a buddy school for assistance ▪ Purchasing infection control supplies (in the event of a public health incident). 	
P2	<p>HT/Govs to follow advice from other organisations (e.g. the local authority, Public Health Board) and should a member of staff or pupil be taken ill, seek their guidance as to course of action</p>	
P3	<p>If school remains open:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise spread of infection through rigorous monitoring of hand washing, appropriate alcohol based sanitisers around school, disposal of tissues, disinfectant on door handles, pupil reminders to 'catch it and bin it' when sneezing and coughing. • Any identified sick child/staff member to be separated (appropriate for age) and given minimal contact with others until collected by parents or able to go home. • Any staff or pupils showing signs of infection to be sent home as soon as possible. <p><i>(In respect of Covid19 – flu-like symptoms, sudden onset of fever, headache, muscle pains, feeling ill with or without sore throat, cough or difficulty breathing).</i></p>	
P4	<p>Ensure Local Authority or any Government Agency is notified of any incidents and feedback information requested.</p>	

P5	<p>If school is to close after advice from LA or Public Health:</p> <p>Ensure that everyone who needs to be aware of the closure is notified. It may be appropriate to inform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pupils ▪ Parents / carers ▪ Staff ▪ Governors ▪ Local radio stations ▪ The local authority. 	
P6	If the closure takes place during the school day, arrange transport for pupils as necessary.	
P7	If the closure takes place outside school hours, at least one member of staff should be present at the school entrance at the beginning of the school day, to ensure that any pupils who do arrive are informed of the closure, and to check pupils are able to return home safely.	
P8	Make alternative arrangements for exams if necessary.	
P9	<p>Coordinate with LA regarding communications with media</p> <p>Keep parents and staff updated through text system/school website as to timescale and when school will reopen.</p>	

If the school is likely to be closed for a significant period of time, consider the actions below.

Ref'	Generic actions - ongoing response	Tick / sign / time
P10	Ensure pupils, parents / carers, governors and the media are regularly informed of developments.	
P11	Consider how pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) or medical needs may be affected if the school remains closed for an extended period of time.	
P12	Ensure the security of the school premises.	
P13	Put in place arrangements for remote learning if appropriate	
P14	Liaise with Public Health for appropriate guidance on making the school a safe environment for children and staff to return.	