

St Mary's Risk Assessment 2021 – 2022 (Updated 1st September)

Risk Classification:

Low
Medium
High



Approach to risk estimation and management

Some types of control are more effective at reducing risks than others. Risk reduction measures should be assessed in order of priority as set out below; schools should not simply adopt the easiest control measure to implement. Controls should be practical to be implemented and, ideally, should be able to be maintained easily over time. It is critical to remember that it will only rarely be feasible to eliminate individual risks completely. The combination of controls introduced should aim to reduce the risk to as low as reasonably practicable and prioritise structural, environmental interventions over individual level ones. This does not just mean considering risks of transmission, but also balancing these against risks to wider health and well-being and to education. Schools have the flexibility to respond to risks in a way that suits their circumstances while complying with their duties under health and safety legislation. Schools should work through the following steps to address their risks, considering for each risk whether there are measures in each step they can adopt before moving onto the next step:

1. Elimination: stop an activity that is not considered essential if there are risks attached.
2. Substitution: replace the activity with another that reduces the risk. Care is required to avoid introducing new hazards due to the substitution.
3. Engineering controls: design measures that help control or mitigate risk.
4. Administrative controls: identify and implement the procedures to improve safety (for example, markings on the floor, signage).
5. Having gone through this process, PPE should be used in circumstances where the guidance says it is required.

Health and safety:

TASK	HAZARDS TO YOU	CURRENT RISK RATING	MITIGATION MEASURES	POTENTIAL RATING
Cleaning of school.	Risk associated with covid 19 germs being present on touchpoints within the building specifically door handles and shared surfaces.	Medium	<p>Agree cleaning arrangements for school – consider: door handles, common equipment and vertical surfaces commonly touched cleaned more frequently, hand sanitiser at school entrance (guidance on cleaning in non-healthcare settings here and here).</p> <p>Everyone to clean hands thoroughly more often than usual. Build these routines in to school culture, supported by behaviour expectations.</p> <p>Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach. School to ensure we have enough bins and tissues available to support this routine.</p>	Low
Staff room	Risk associated with covid 19	Medium	<p>Ensure staffroom is cleaned regularly.</p> <p>Bins emptied regularly.</p> <p>Everyone to clean hands on entry and exit from the staffroom.</p> <p>Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach.</p> <p>Maintain ventilation. Balance this with the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature.</p>	Low
A member of staff or child displays symptoms of covid 19 whilst in school.	Potential of germs to be present in the areas of the school where that group of children and staff have been.	High	If anyone in your school develops COVID-19 symptoms , however mild, you should send them home and they should follow public health advice.	Low

			<p>If a pupil is awaiting collection, they should be left in a room on their own (Rainbow Room) if possible and safe to do so. A window should be opened for fresh air ventilation if possible. Appropriate PPE should also be used if close contact is necessary. Child to exit via the outside of the building.</p> <p>The household (including any siblings) should follow the PHE stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.</p> <p>For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.</p> <p>Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice. Stepping measures up or down as required.</p>	
A member of staff or child reports Covid-19 symptoms.	Risk of spread of Covid-19	High	Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do . They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).	Low
Asymptomatic testing	Risk of infection from asymptomatic staff.	High	<p>Staff should undertake twice weekly (Sunday and Wednesday) home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed.</p> <p>Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance for</p>	Low

			<p>households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19.</p> <p>Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.</p> <p>If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.</p>	
A member of the household has a positive case.	Risk of spread of Covid-19	High	The family is strongly advised to get everyone in the household a PCR test. The child can come to school while they await the results of the PCR. (Following Dfe Covid helpline advice)	Low
Coughs and Colds as winter approaches	Greater risk of aerosol droplets being disseminated	High	<p>Signs for Catch It, Bin It, Kill It, message around the school.</p> <p>Provision of tissues in all classrooms</p> <p>Bins emptied regularly</p> <p>Maintain ventilation, where possible, all occupied spaces.</p> <p>Balance this with the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature.</p>	Low
A family returns from abroad	Potential risk of family being exposed to COVID-19 germs and being asymptomatic	Medium	<p>All families returning from travel abroad will inform the school and follow current the government guidance regarding quarantine.</p> <p>Parents travelling abroad should bear in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return.</p>	Low

A pupil using public transport or taxi to come to school	Risk of pupil having prolonged exposure to germs.	Medium	Parents to follow current guidance for safer travel. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers All children will wash their hands on entering the building.	Low
Sensory room	Potential transmission of Coronavirus on surfaces	Medium	Hands to be washed before and after use. Ensure room is well ventilated when in use.	Low
Contractors	Potential transmission of Covid-19	Medium	School to ensure that key contractors are aware of the school's control measures and ways of working.	Low
CEV pupils	CEV Pupils at greater risk should they contract Covid-19	Medium	All clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) children and young people should attend their education setting unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend.	Low
Admitting a child with potential Covid-19 symptoms in to school.	Risk of transmission of Covid-19 to others.	Medium	If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your school, you can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Your decision would need to be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.	Low
Educational visits	Risks associated with Covid-19	Medium	Ensure adequate insurance is in place. Do not book any international visits. 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. General guidance about educational visits is available and is	Low

			supported by specialist advice from the Outdoor Education Advisory Panel (OEAP) .	
Parent events in school	Risks associated with Covid-19	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure areas are well ventilated • Encourage social distancing and ensure there are hand sanitising stations available • Request that those attending undertake an LFT test before visiting the school • Advise parents that if they are feeling unwell, they should not attend and should book a PCR test • Where visitors would like to wear a face covering, they are allowed to do so • Cleaning arrangements remain in place 	Low
Parents events in church	Risks associated with Covid-19	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure areas are well ventilated • Encourage social distancing and ensure there are hand sanitising stations available • Request that those attending undertake an LFT test before visiting the school • Advise parents that if they are feeling unwell, they should not attend and should book a PCR test • Where visitors would like to wear a face covering, they are allowed to do so • Cleaning arrangements remain in place • Live stream Mass into the church hall to allow for social distancing. 	Low

Annex A: Control Measures (Schools Covid operational guidance – updated 17th August)

You should:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.