

# Doncaster School for the Deaf



## Social Distancing Policy

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## Contents:

### Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Risk assessments
3. Social distancing measures
4. Infection control measures
5. Personal protective equipment (PPE)
6. Communication
7. Monitoring and review

## **Statement of intent**

This policy outlines the school's approach to social distancing measures in light of the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and how we will adhere to the guidance published by the government and health organisations.

While we are looking forward to opening in September, we understand the concerns of many of our stakeholders, e.g. parents and staff members. That is why we have created this policy – to outline the steps the school will take to mitigate the risk of infection spreading and, ultimately, ensure the safety of our school community.

We will be updating this policy in light of updates to government guidance.

## **1. Legal framework**

- 1.1. This policy has due regard to relevant legislation and guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - Coronavirus Act 2020
  - DfE (2020) 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings'
  - DfE (2020) 'Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings, including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE)'
  - DfE (2020) 'Guidance for full opening: schools'
- 1.2. This policy operates in accordance with the following school policies:
  - Bereavement Policy (Trust)
  - Staff Leave of Absence Policy
  - Infection Control Policy
  - Positive Behaviour Policy
  - Risk Assessment for Full Opening in September

## **2. Risk assessments**

- 2.1. Before opening in September, a risk assessment will be carried out to ensure sensible measures are put in place to protect staff members and pupils, including appropriate social distancing measures.
- 2.2. Staff members will be consulted as part of the creation process to ensure everyone's needs are understood and accounted for.
- 2.3. The risk assessment will address the following areas:
  - Safety of the school premises
  - Cleaning measures
  - Infection control and the ability to implement protective measures, e.g. social distancing
  - Supporting staff and pupil wellbeing
  - Supporting pupils' learning
  - Safeguarding
  - Communication of plans and procedures

## **3. Social distancing measures**

### **Use of 'bubbles'**

- 3.1. We will ensure reasonable endeavours are made to minimise mixing within the setting,

- 3.2. Staff will be permitted to move between bubbles but should continue to follow the school's social distancing measures where possible.
- 3.3. Where possible, social distancing measures will be adhered to, including the two-metre rule.

#### **The school day**

- 3.4. The senior leadership team (SLT) and other key staff members will review the school timetable and make amendments to reduce movement around the school, such as ensuring separate classroom areas are used for different bubbles.

#### **Travelling to and from school**

- 3.5. SLT will contact parents / transport so that some staggered arrivals and departures can be set. On arrival some pupils may have to wait in their taxi . Our aim is that pupils do not remain in the hall in large groups . They will handwash and move straight to class

#### **Assemblies**

- 3.6. Secondary assemblies will take place in the school hall .

#### **Break and lunchtimes**

- 3.7. Different areas of the school will be allocated for pupils to take their break and lunchtimes, so we can appropriately distance pupil bubbles.
- 3.8. The playground will be open so pupils are able to go outside during their breaktimes and lunchtimes; however, we will aim for them to remain within their bubble areas .
- 3.9. Pupils will wash their hands before eating.

#### **PE lessons**

- 3.10. Contact sports will be avoided, and sports equipment will be cleaned or left for 72 hours or allocated to each group

#### **Behaviour**

- 3.11. We understand that following some of the social distancing principles will be extremely challenging, so staff and pupils will not face any stringent action if they are unable to follow them.

#### **Supporting pupils**

- 3.12. We will consider the capacity for the pupil to understand and follow social distancing measures that have been put in place and ensure support is in place to aid in this, e.g. visual aids to explain the importance of social distancing.
- 3.13. When planning for each stage of reintegration, the implications for the wellbeing of pupils, staff and families will always be considered. One of the

school's key priorities in relation to wellbeing is ensuring that the school community feels safe when we open.

#### 4. Infection control measures

- 4.1. We know that implementing social distancing measures in a school setting is extremely challenging. Therefore, we will also implement robust infection control measures to help ensure the safety of our school community.
- 4.2. Infection control measures are implemented in line with the **Infection Control Policy**, which contains an annex on coronavirus measures.
- 4.3. All staff members will be briefed on what they can do to mitigate the risk of infection, and they will be reminded of their responsibilities relating to control measures
- 4.4. The following measures will be implemented across the school:
  - Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, have someone in their household who does, or have tested positive within the last 7 days do not attend the school for 7 or 14 days.
  - Cleaning hands frequently– wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
  - Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
  - Cleaning frequently touched surfaces using standard products, such as detergents and wipes
  - Minimising contact and mixing of pupils and staff by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables
  - Ensuring individual and frequently used equipment (e.g. stationery) is not shared and that classroom-based resources (e.g. books) are only used and shared within bubbles. Resources that must be shared between groups, e.g. art equipment, will be cleaned frequently and always between use by different bubbles.
  - Discouraging pupils from touching their faces or putting objects in their mouths
  - Teaching pupils to wash their hands frequently, particularly after eating
- 4.5. To meet our duty to engage with the NHS Test and Trace process, we will ensure that staff members and parents understand that they must be ready and willing to:
  - Book a test if they, or their child, are displaying symptoms of coronavirus.

- If they, or their child, were to test positive or contacted by NHS Test and Trace, provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with.
  - Self-isolate if they have been in close contact someone who develops symptoms of, or tests positive for, coronavirus.
- 4.6. The school will review guidance from the government regularly, and update this policy and other documents, e.g. the **Risk Assessment for Full Opening in September**, where necessary.

## 5. Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- 5.1. Reference to PPE in this section means:
- Fluid-resistant surgical face masks (also known as Type IIR).
  - Disposable gloves.
  - Disposable plastic aprons.
  - Eye protection, e.g. face visor or goggles.
- 5.2. The government has advised that the majority of school staff do not need to wear PPE beyond what they normally would for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of two metres from others.
- 5.3. In accordance with government guidance, PPE will be provided to staff in the following circumstances:
- Where staff are caring for pupils whose intimate care needs already require the use of PPE
  - Where a pupil becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus at school and requires direct personal care until they can go home, a fluid-resistant surgical mask should be worn by the staff member caring for the pupil. If contact with the pupils is necessary, the staff member should wear disposable gloves, a disposable apron, and a fluid-resistant surgical mask. Where there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, e.g. from coughing, eye protection should be worn.
- 5.4. When using face masks, staff will ensure the masks:
- Cover both the nose and mouth.
  - Do not dangle around the neck.
  - Are not touched once put on, except when carefully removed before disposal.
  - Are changed once they become moist or damaged.
  - Are only worn once and then discarded.
- 5.5. When using PPE, staff members will follow [PHE's guidelines](#) on putting on and taking off equipment. PHE's infographics will be displayed in areas of the school where PPE is likely to be used.

- 5.6. The safety of our staff is paramount, so additional risk assessments will be conducted to determine whether PPE is required for other tasks and activities, and we will do our utmost to ensure staff are provided with the PPE they need.
- 5.7. Where the wearer of PPE does not have coronavirus symptoms, the equipment will be placed in a refuse bag and be disposed of as normal domestic waste.
- 5.8. PPE that has been worn by, or near, someone with coronavirus symptoms will be disposed of by:
  - Putting it in a plastic rubbish bag and tying it when full.
  - Placing the rubbish bag in a second rubbish bag and tying it.
  - Putting it in a suitable container and secure place marked for storage for 72 hours.
- 5.9. Waste will be stored safely and securely kept away from pupils. Waste will not be put in communal waste areas until it has been stored for at least 72 hours. This waste does not require a dedicated clinical waste collection.
- 5.10. In line with government guidance, pupils and staff will be asked to remove homemade non-disposable face coverings when they arrive at school. The wearer will be asked to bring a plastic bag to school to put the face covering into in order to take it home – the wearer must clean their hands once they have removed the face covering. If a staff member or pupil (or their parent) does not want to remove their face covering while at school, they should speak to the SLT or the most senior member of staff on site.
- 5.11. The SLT will liaise with the Trust about procuring PPE.

## **6. Communication**

- 6.1. All social distancing measures will be communicated to all relevant stakeholders, including pupils, parents, staff, visitors, suppliers and contractors. ( see website)
- 6.2. Staff will be informed of all relevant plans, including safety measures, timetable changes and staggered arrival and departure times, and will have opportunities to discuss training on the new measures.
- 6.3. Staff will be engaged regularly to get their feedback on the arrangements that are in place.
- 6.4. Visual aids will be placed around the school to remind our community of the measures that we have put in place.

## **7. Monitoring and review**

- 7.1. This policy will be reviewed regularly and after the release of additional government guidance.