



Valence School

Health & Safety Policy Addendum in Response to Covid-19

June 2020 – Version 1

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This addendum will be reviewed following any updates to national and local guidance and procedures and reshared as required.

1. Introduction

The school recognises the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 (and associated Regulations) and has an existing Health and Safety Policy which sets out how we do this. However, in recognition of the current circumstances due to COVID-19, this supplementary document sets out the arrangements in relation to the health and safety of our children, staff and the wider school community during this time. This document has been written in accordance with guidance from the DfE and the Local Authority in relation to managing risk associated with COVID-19.

In order to ensure the school continues to operate in a safe way, thorough risk assessments are undertaken and any necessary adjustments to ensure the safety of children, staff and the wider community are implemented.

2. Risk Assessment

The school has continued to undertake risk assessments during the period of partial closure due to COVID-19. As part of the preparation for wider opening of our school (from 22nd June 2020) a detailed risk assessment has been undertaken and an action plan to make any necessary adjustments to mitigate risk has been produced. The risk assessment and accompanying action plan cover the following Health and Safety elements:

- Buildings & Facilities
- Emergency Evacuation & First Aid Provision
- Cleaning & Waste Disposal
- Classrooms & HLA facilities
- Curriculum / learning environment

- Group Sizes
- Social Distancing
- Catering
- PPE
- Response to suspected / confirmed Covid-19 cases
- Staff Arrangements
- Travel Arrangements
- Communication
- Governance
- School events (including trips)

The risk assessment and action plan are dynamic and are regularly reviewed to ensure they meet current need. All appropriate documentation is shared with staff and any necessary training to support implementation of the plan is provided.

3. Roles & Responsibilities:

a) The Governing body will:

- Regularly assess the effectiveness of the policy, risk assessment and action plan
- Ensure all documentation is regularly reviewed to meet current need and any updated guidance from the Government or Local Authority
- Ensure staff have access to any training or instruction required to implement the action plan
- Prioritise the wellbeing of all pupils and staff and ensure there is appropriate support in place

b) The Principal will:

- Have overall responsibility for the development and implementation of the policy, risk assessment and action plan
- Ensure all documentation is regularly reviewed to meet current need and any updated guidance from the Government or Local Authority
- Prioritise the wellbeing of all pupils and staff and ensure there is appropriate support in place

c) All staff will:

- Carry out all work in accordance with the policy, risk assessment and action plan, including additional tasks as part of the response to COVID-19
- Take the opportunity to contribute to the risk assessment and action planning process
- Be responsible for reporting any (potential or actual) Health and Safety risks related to COVID-19 to the Principal or Senior On Call.

- Undertake any training to support implementation of the action plan and to identify any individual needs which may impact on the delivery of the plan
- Prioritise the wellbeing of all pupils and other staff

d) Parents will:

- Adhere to any recommendations from the school to help reduce the risk of transmission
- Keep their child at home if they or anyone within the household is displaying symptoms of COVID-19
- Promptly notify the school if child presents with any other signs or symptoms of illness.
- Adhere to drop-off and collection arrangements set by the school
- Support their child to understand any protective measures put in place by the school and to encourage them to comply
- Adhere to all government guidance produced to reduce the risk of transmission
- Ensure their child does not mix socially outside of school, other than as permitted by current Government guidance

e) Students will:

- Be supported to observe the Health and Safety rules of the school, including new arrangements in response to COVID-19.
- Be encouraged to notify staff and seek support if they are feeling unwell.

Relevant Health and Safety information has been communicated to all staff and the wider school community via the school's regular Staff and Parent Bulletins.

4. Additional support and links

DfE Guidance

- Closure of educational settings: information for parents and carers: www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers
- COVID-19: guidance for educational settings: www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19

