

## Jessie Younghusband School – Covid-19 Risk Assessment November 2021

Date undertaken : November 2021 (in light of altered guidance) by Luke Hanna, Headteacher, Paul Neaves, Deputy Head

Consultation with : Staff, parents, Governors

**Risks:** Transmission of the Covid-19 virus currently at pandemic level around the world. Schools are currently planning for full opening following several National Lockdown since 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020. School has been open throughout this time to eligible keyworker children and vulnerable children; since 1<sup>st</sup> June for Year R and 1 and from the 15<sup>th</sup> June for Year 6. The Government have lifted the full lockdown and has announced that the risks of infection and transmission are reducing so that schools can fully re-open in September. Detailed guidance has been provided and will be implemented as set out within this document which reflect current guidance.

**Sources of information and Guidance:** Government guidance including guidance for school's following the announcement of lockdown easing. WSCC Guidance, Public Health England (PHE), NGA, NAHT and information from The Key.

**Who might be affected:** Staff, Children, parents, other visitors to the school site.

### **Potential Hazards:**

- Transmission through social contact with an infected person;
- New variant of concern with very little know about transmission;
- Transmission through contact with a surface where the virus is present;
- People with symptoms being present in the community;
- Shared use of equipment;
- Inadequate use of hygiene and cleaning procedures;
- Transferal of the virus between home and school on hands, clothes or other items;
- Increasing rates at a local level;
- Levels of staffing.

### **Control Measures put in Place**

- **As of Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, in line with new guidance, staff will be strongly encouraged to wear face masks in all corridors, staff room, staff preparation room and when greeting parents on the playground. Assemblies and lunchtimes will be altered to split the school into KS1 and 2 to reduce contact in indoor spaces. Communication has been sent to parents encouraging them to wear masks on school site and to limit the number of adults attending at collection. All visitors will be required to wear masks on site (unless exempt). We will review this guidance weekly, or if enough cases are reported to trigger one of the given thresholds.**
- Minimise items being bought into school by children – for example no toys or other belongings not required in school.
- Children who are unwell for any reason to remain at home for 48 hours or until well again. Children or staff with CV-19 symptoms to self-isolate in accordance with the PHE guidance
- Daily cleaning of tables and touch areas, e.g. door handles, light switches. Tables in the hall used at lunchtime wiped down in between sittings. Cleaning procedures to be followed each day with rigor and consistently across the school.
- Staff to raise any safety concerns as they arise with the Headteacher
- Staff well-being – this has been closely monitored since return to full opening. Anxieties still exist. These take different forms. Staff are being supported where these arise. For some staff, this has involved individual risk assessments and adjustments to the way they work.
- Communication with parents where required in a prompt fashion, particularly where concerns are raised.
- Headteacher keeping up to date with guidance from DfE and WSCC. Office keeping up to date with admin related guidance – e.g. attendance and reporting positive cases.
- Staff to undertake twice weekly LFT and report results to school so that this can be closely monitored. These will be done twice a week on Sunday and Wednesday evening this will allow for the impact of any positive tests to be addressed.
- Separate risk assessments for each educational visit will be undertaken to determine whether it can be undertaken safely and in line with any changes to guidance or areas of concern.
- Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.
- Frequent and thorough hand cleaning is part of our regular practice. We will continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.
- We will continue to use and promote (in class and via assemblies) the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach
- Opening external windows to improve ventilation, and in addition, opening internal doors to assist with creating a throughput of air through the school where possible. If necessary, external opening doors may also be used (if they are not fire doors and where safe to do so). If temperatures are low, common sense will be used to maintain a comfortable working temperature. **Carbon Dioxide monitors are present in all classrooms and will monitor airflow, with windows and doors being opened as required.**