

Risk Management Statement for the Operation of Reading School



Pupils and families of Reading School,

On the 5th November 2020 the Government issued new [guidance](#) in response to a rapid rise in COVID-19 cases across the whole of the UK and in other countries. In response to this Reading school have completed a full review of the **system of control** implemented at the start of term, and additional measures brought in regarding face coverings. The following is a reminder of the **5-point process the school continue to follow**. The 5-point process is outlined in detail in this guidance, and has been endorsed by Public Health England (PHE).

As previously highlighted, the prospect of reopening the school, and continuing to remain operational brought a mixture of understandable anxiety and solution-focused optimism. Reopening all provisions required detailed consideration of multiple variables, and the commitment of us all for it to continue to be successful. Reading School continue to be committed to making these steps towards 'normality' as safe as possible for our staff our pupils, and our families.

The following information explains how Reading School will follow the 5-point process to;

1. update current risk assessment processes brought in at the start of Phase 3;
2. provide the best guidance to pupils and parents;
3. provide the best guidance and support to our staff;
4. develop our plan to respond to any potential outbreaks and revise risk assessments where identified.

Government Review

Reading School continues to monitor the guidance given, therefore, please note that the following outline is based on current guidance at time of writing. Further announcements could be made if guidance changes and we will endeavour to communicate this effectively.

Consultation

Reading School are working with the Reading School Boarding Parents' Association working group, and with Union representatives to ensure a wide range of views are taken in to account with regards to our plans for reopening and recovery. We continue to be mindful of queries raised by staff and parents along with the official government advice.

How is Reading School reopening?

Point 1 - Public health advice to minimise coronavirus (COVID-19) risks

- **Risk assessment**

First and foremost, Reading School have, and will continue to risk assess all activities with a focus on reducing risks to the lowest reasonably practicable level by taking preventative measures. Our Health and Safety Consultant has been supporting our Reintegration Team to better understand what impact this latest guidance will have.

- **System of controls**

Having assessed risk, we will then follow the Governments 11-point **system of control**, adopting measures in a way that address the risk identified in our assessment, work for our school, and allow us to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils, including full educational and care support for those pupils who have SEND. The Government have been clear that If schools follow this guidance we will effectively reduce risks, and create an inherently safer environment.

Prevention:

1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
2. Where recommended, the use of face coverings in schools.
3. Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual
4. Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
5. Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.
6. Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
7. Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
8. Always keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.

Numbers 1 to 5, and number 8 must be in place in school at all times. Referring back to our risk assessments, number 6 will be properly considered, and measures put in place to suit the particular circumstance. Number 7 will only apply in specific circumstances.

Response to any infection

9. Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
10. Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community.
11. Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

9 to 11 will be followed in every case where they are relevant.

Face Coverings

In addition to the above, and in line with government advice on [face coverings in education](#), Reading School brought in measures for face coverings to be worn by both pupils and staff in corridors and other areas of high traffic. From 5th November face coverings **must** be worn by students within the classroom. Full face visors have been made available for staff upon request.

Point 2 – School Operations

Areas of consideration for the reopening, and where we continue to follow the latest guidance include;

1. School transport and wider public transport use.
2. Attendance expectations including those who are shielding or self-isolating.
3. School workforce.
4. Safeguarding.

5. Catering.
6. School uniform.
7. Educational visits.
8. Extra-curricular provisions.

In addition, for Boarding provision include areas such as;

1. Accommodation.
2. Ablutions.
3. Laundry.
4. Common rooms.

Point 3 – Curriculum, behaviour and pastoral support

The Reintegration Team have been working tirelessly this term to look at all options of support for the autumn term, and how this can fit with the latest guidance. Once we have a full timetable in place this will be communicated with staff, pupils and parents. We will follow government advice, and learn from our phase 3 wider opening from June when finalising this.

Point 4 – Assessment and accountability

Although Ofsted inspections are suspended for the autumn term, we will continue to work to the high standards that resulted in the school receiving Outstanding in February of this year, and work with the Government in assessing the impact of COVID-19 on this cohort of pupils.

Point 5 – Contingency planning for outbreaks

If there is a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, appropriate authorities will decide which measures to implement to help contain the spread. The Department for Education will be involved in decisions at a local and national level affecting a geographical area, and will support appropriate authorities and individual settings to follow the health advice. At present the Government have not provided information on this process and we shall therefore update you in due course.