



Guidance for the Full Opening of Orchard Manor School

September 2020

The Ambition

The background of the slide is a rich, bright green. It features several large, overlapping, wavy shapes that flow from the top left towards the bottom right. These shapes are semi-transparent, allowing the underlying green to show through, creating a layered, ethereal effect. The overall impression is one of dynamic energy and forward motion.



It is the government's intention for all pupils to be back to school in September.

Orchard Manor School supports this ambition because:

- Prolonged absence from school is concerning academically, socially - and for some children, from a welfare and safety perspective; and
- The long-term impact of a deep recession, particularly on the poorest families, will be very damaging.

This is an exercise in the balance of risk. It is important to balance the public health risks in the short term (related to the transmission of the virus) with longer term public health considerations. If a child loses out on education, this can have an impact on that child across their whole lives - their economic prosperity and long-term health. Children benefit hugely from being at school.

We do not underestimate the scale of the challenge ahead of us.

The Rationale





- The prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased.
- NHS Test and Trace system is running.
- Public Health England is clear about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments within schools.
- Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing - we know that school is a vital point of contact for public health and safeguarding services that are critical to the wellbeing of children and families.
- The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus is low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school.
- Lower academic achievement also translates into long-term economic costs due to having a less well-qualified workforce. This affects the standard of living that today's pupils will have over the course of their entire life. For many households, school closures have also affected their ability to work. As the economy begins to recover, we need to remove this barrier so parents and carers can return to work.



The Start of the Autumn Term

- We have carefully considered the return to school for pupils in September.
- Many pupils have not attended school at all since the end of March and those that have, have done so on a reduced timetable. The reduced timetable has been successful in supporting pupils' wellbeing, adhering to the government guidelines and allowing a safe, measured and managed system that allows pupils to access learning and safe social interaction on the school site.
- To ensure that the transition into the Autumn term is as successful as possible, during the first week back (week commencing Monday 7th September), the pupils will attend for a reduced number of days as communicated by the class teacher.
- During the days where pupils are not in school, remote learning will be provided.
- The following week (week commencing Monday 14th September), the school will be fully open to all pupils full time.

Public Health Advice to Minimise Risks





Public Health Advice

Essential measures include:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

Face coverings:

- the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary in education settings generally because a system of controls, applicable to all education environments, provides additional mitigating measures
- if local restrictions apply, face coverings may be required by adults (staff and visitors) and pupils when moving around indoors, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain
- pupils will be expected not to wear face coverings in school
- if you wish to discuss this, please contact the school
- information regarding the use of face coverings on school transport have been shared with parents



Public Health Advice

- 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) Clean hands thoroughly, more often than usual
- 3) Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- 4) Continue with enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach
- 5) Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible
- 6) Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)



What we are doing at OMS

Staff will:

- regularly washing their hands and encourage pupils to do so as well
- model, encourage and promote social distancing
- ensure pupils are washing their hands before they eat
- ensure that they wipe down any surfaces and objects with antibacterial wipes/spray which have been regularly touched e.g. desks, toys, sports equipment including bikes and helmets
- ensure that pupils are not moving around school in large groups
- open windows and doors where possible to let fresh air into rooms
- where possible use doors that open into outdoor spaces to avoid the use of corridors where social distancing can be difficult
- use corridors only when required to access other areas to reduce social distancing difficulties associated with these space
- take any other reasonable precautions that reduces the risk of transmission



What we are doing at OMS

We will try to reduce contacts as much as possible by:

- reducing the mixing of pupils, including avoiding mixing between the upper and lower site where possible
- maximising the way we use the spaces available to promote social distancing
- reducing contact between groups
- arranging classrooms with forward facing desks so that pupils do not breathe on each other
- staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible (but not to the detriment of education and care)
- static classes and teachers where possible (this will not be possible for specialist subjects such as PE)
- staggering attendance of the dining hall
- allocating specific areas for groups for break times



Response to any infection

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



Risk assessments

As part of planning for full return in the autumn term, it is a legal requirement that schools should revisit and update their risk assessments, to consider the additional risks and control measures to enable a return to full capacity in the autumn term. We have updated our risk assessment and shared it with staff and parents. This is a live document and will be further updated as required.

We have implemented sensible and proportionate control measures which follow the health and safety hierarchy of control to reduce the risk to the lowest reasonably practicable level.

For further information and detail, please see the risk assessment.

School Operations

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Transport

We are working closely with Devon County Council Transport to ensure that taxis will be as safe as possible for pupils. When pupils are on taxis, they should follow good hygiene and practice social distancing.

On arrival at school, taxis may be asked to wait outside of the school to avoid a bottleneck of pupils arriving in school at the same time.

Parents who are bringing their son/daughter to school should remain in their car where possible to avoid any unnecessary contact with other pupils, parents or staff.

Further information from Devon County Council Transport has been shared with parents and staff.



Attendance

The usual rules on school attendance will apply from September, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

A small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus.

Where this is the case, we will be offering remote learning for these pupils.



Workforce

Staff who are clinically vulnerable or extremely clinically vulnerable

The clinically extremely vulnerable list will be paused on 1st August. This list includes pregnant women. As we will be applying our risk assessment and following guidance, the risks to all staff will be mitigated significantly, including those who are extremely clinically vulnerable and clinically vulnerable. This will allow most staff to return to the workplace, although the DfE are advising that those in the most at risk categories to take particular care.

Staff who may otherwise be at increased risk from coronavirus (COVID-19)

Some people with particular characteristics may be at comparatively increased risk from coronavirus. Research is ongoing to understand and translate these findings. If people with significant risk factors are concerned, staff should discuss their concerns and complete a risk assessment with a member of SLT. School leaders will try as far as practically possible to accommodate any additional measures to further reduce risk where appropriate.



Workforce

Deploying support staff and accommodating visiting specialists

Orchard Manor School will ensure that appropriate support is made available for all pupils, for example by deploying support staff and enabling specialist staff from both within and outside the school to work with pupils in different classes or year groups.

Supply / peripatetic teachers

We will continue to engage supply teachers and other supply staff from September. Supply staff and other temporary workers can move between schools, however we will minimise the number of visitors to the school where possible. We have recently recruited more staff who will be starting in September to reduce the need for supply staff. This will ensure consistency for our pupils as well as minimise contact from external staff.



Offsite activities and visits

We appreciate that offsite activities are usually big part of what we offer at Orchard Manor School. Non residential visits within the UK are now permitted.

Therefore 'day visits' can commence subject to suitable risk assessment and compliance with wider guidance i.e. school travel.

Staff will be balancing the risks/rewards in taking part in off-site activities and whether they can be done in line with Government advice. There are significant benefits of using outdoor spaces for learning, but also inherent risks involved with travelling in shared vehicles such as minibuses/coaches or the need for first aid provision or close personal contact in higher risk activities etc.

All offsite visits will be risk assessed and approved with measures to ensure the health and safety of pupils and staff considered.

Curriculum, Behaviour and Pastoral Support

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Principles:

- Teach an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects from the start of the autumn term, but make use of existing flexibilities to create time to cover the most important missed content – prioritise within subjects of the most important components for progression.
- While substantial modification to the curriculum may be needed at the start of the year, we will be aiming to return to the school's normal curriculum in all subjects by summer term 2021.
- We will continue to incorporate aspects of the Recovery Curriculum throughout the school.
- Teachers will be planning as always based on the educational needs of pupils.
- We will continue to invest in and develop our remote education provision so that we are better able to respond if required.



Physical activity

Sport and physical activity is an important part of our curriculum. During physical activity, pupils will where possible be kept in consistent groups, sports equipment will be thoroughly cleaned between each use by individual groups, and contact sports will be avoided.

Outdoor sports will be prioritised where possible, and large indoor spaces used where it is not, maximising distancing between pupils and paying scrupulous attention to cleaning and hygiene. This is particularly important in a sports setting because of the way in which people breathe during exercise.

Our swimming pool at this time will remain closed.



Pupil wellbeing and support

Pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. It is important to contextualise these feelings as normal responses to an abnormal situation. Some may need support to re-adjust to school; others may have enjoyed being at home and be reluctant to return; a few may be showing signs of more severe anxiety or depression. Others will not be experiencing any challenges and will be keen and ready to return to school.

We will be providing opportunities during the autumn term to:

- support the rebuilding of relationships/friendships and social engagement
- address and equip pupils to respond to issues linked to coronavirus, their anxieties and wellbeing
- support pupils with approaches to improving their physical and mental wellbeing



Behaviour expectations

Our behaviour policy has been updated to reflect how coronavirus (COVID-19) may affect behaviours when pupils are back in school.

The school's home school agreement sits alongside the behaviour policy to detail current behaviour expectations and consequences. Reasonable adjustments will be made for pupils.

It is particularly important that pupils maintain good hygiene and practice social distancing.

Assessment and Accountability

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Primary assessment

Statutory primary assessments will take place in summer 2021. The early years foundation stage profile, and all existing statutory key stage 1 and 2 assessments, should return in 2020 to 2021 in accordance with their usual timetables. This includes:

- the phonics screening check
- key stage 1 tests and teacher assessment
- the Year 4 multiplication tables check
- key stage 2 tests and teacher assessment

The statutory rollout of the reception baseline assessment has been postponed until September 2021.



Public examinations

GCSEs will take place in summer 2021 but with adaptations, including those which will free up teaching time.

Ofqual has launched a [consultation](#) on proposed adaptations to exams. This consultation includes proposals and questions on the following areas:

- adaptations to exams and assessments that could free up teaching time
- adaptations to exams and assessments to address obstacles that could be created by any public health safeguards
- sampling of subject content
- the use of more optional questions in exams
- changing the length of exams
- changing the exam timetable

We will keep you updated with any developments.

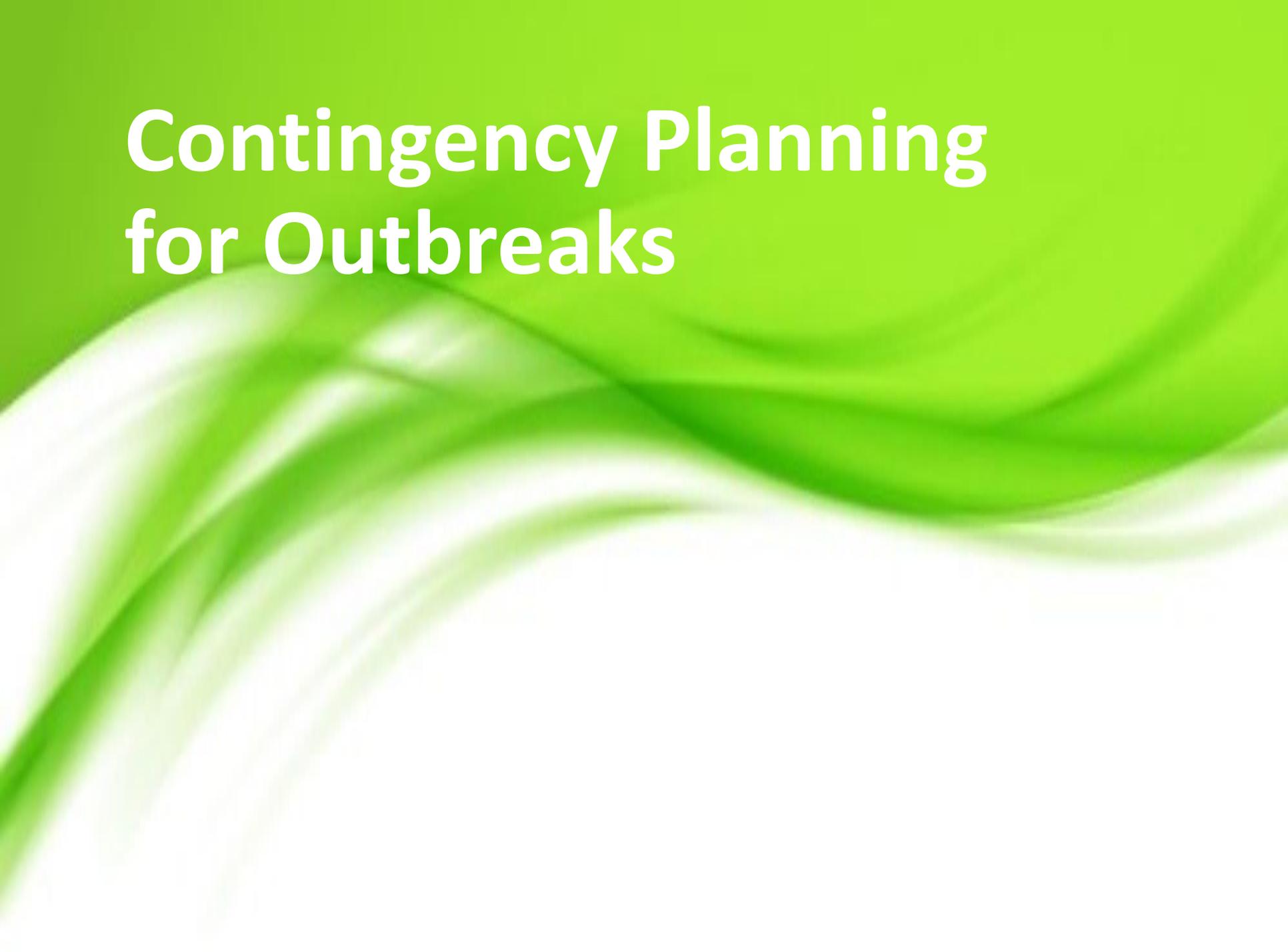


Accountability

Performance tables are suspended for the 2019 to 2020 academic year, and no school or college will be judged on data based on exams and assessments from 2020.

Until the new data release is available, all those working with schools, including Ofsted and DfE regional teams, should refer to the 2019 data. The Department for Education will continue to use 2019 data as a starting point for any conversation about support for schools with Ofsted judgements below good.

Contingency Planning for Outbreaks

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Process in the event of local outbreaks

If a local area sees 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.

DfE has published [local lockdown guidance](#).



Remote education

For individuals or groups of self-isolating pupils, remote education will be provided. These will meet the same expectations as those for any pupils who cannot yet attend school at all due to coronavirus.

In the event of a local outbreak, the PHE health protection team or local authority may advise a school or number of schools to close temporarily to help control transmission. The contingency plan for this eventuality may involve a return to remaining open only for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers, and providing remote education for all other pupils.