



## **Coronavirus Safety Measures: Autumn 2021**

At Kings Norton Nursery School, we regularly update our risk assessment to take account of changing national, regional and local guidance with regard to coronavirus and other health and safety requirements.

We are very grateful to all our families who have supported our systems of control to make sure that our nursery school remains as safe as possible during this pandemic. We really do appreciate that this has been an exceptionally challenging time for everyone.

On 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021, the Government decided to move to step 4 of the roadmap, a new phase of continued caution whilst managing the risks of COVID-19, with further lifting of restrictions from 16<sup>th</sup> August. The 'Actions for early years and childcare providers' was updated on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021. This outlines a set of control measures that we abide by at nursery school in the following ways:

### **1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone**

#### **Hand hygiene**

We will promote good hygiene for everyone by ensuring that children clean their hands regularly. This will be done with liquid soap and water or hand sanitiser.

#### **Respiratory hygiene**

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important. Tissues and tissue bins are available within nursery school. The children will be taught how to use these to encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene.

Each year, we request that each family donates a box of tissues to the nursery school. Please hand these to your group leader. Thank you.

#### **Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)**

We always use PPE for intimate care needs and this will continue as usual.

Masks will be worn by staff when we meet and greet at the start of the day and at the end of the day, as this involves contact with a number of adults in close proximity.

If a child displays symptoms of COVID-19, staff may need to wear the following PPE whilst waiting for the child to be collected. This may include face masks, disposable gloves, disposable aprons, face visor for eye protection.

### **2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents**

Regular cleaning plays a vital role in limiting the transmission of COVID-19. A rigorous cleaning schedule is in place at Kings Norton Nursery School. This includes regular cleaning of areas

and equipment at least twice per day, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, light switches, work surfaces, remote controls and electronic devices, as well as children's toileting and handwashing facilities. Children's toys and equipment are cleaned carefully at the end of each day.

### **3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated**

National guidance states that, 'When your setting is in operation, it is important to ensure it is well ventilated and that a comfortable environment is maintained.' We will open external windows as much as possible to improve natural ventilation. We will open some internal doors, where it is safe to do so, to assist with increasing air flow.

At Kings Norton Nursery School, we love being outdoors and always encourage our children to use the outdoor environment to promote their learning. We shall continue to maximise outdoor learning opportunities.

Therefore, please make sure your child is dressed for the weather conditions, providing them with a waterproof coat and wellington boots. If possible, the wellington boots should stay at school.

### **4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19**

#### **'When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test**

Children, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on [when to self-isolate and what to do](#). They should not come into the setting if they have [symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

If anyone in your setting develops [symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#), however mild, you should send them home and they should follow public health advice.

For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.

Children who are aged under 5 years old who are identified as close contacts will only be advised to take a PCR test if the positive case is in their own household. If someone in your household has a positive PCR test, we ask that you keep your child at home until the result of your child's PCR test is known, to protect the whole school community.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/actions-for-early-years-and-childcare-providers-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme-claiming-financial-support/claiming-financial-support-under-the-test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>



### **A Summary of Updates to our Practice and Provision (September 2021)**

On 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021, the government published additional guidance about moving to step 4 of the roadmap, which states:

*'The pandemic is not over. Cases are increasing rapidly and a third wave is underway. Step 4 does not mark the end of the need for caution and restraint. At step 4, while many of the legal restrictions that the Government has imposed through the pandemic will be lifted, cautious guidance will remain, making it clear this is not yet a return to normal. While cases are high and rising, everybody needs to continue to act carefully and remain cautious.'*

We want all our children and families to continue to have a safe, healthy and enjoyable experience whilst attending our nursery school. For this reason, we are pleased to confirm:

- We will no longer have separate bubbles of children.
- We will provide an increased number and range of resources available to children, which will continue to be thoroughly cleaned after use.
- Parents will be able to attend small group settling-in sessions, that will then be individualised to each child's particular needs.
- For your protection, we will ask all parents attending settling-in sessions to wear a mask, unless exempt. If you have symptoms of coronavirus, please telephone to re-arrange your visit.
- For the time being, we will continue to minimise the number of parents/carers within the building. Once your child is happily settled, your child's Group Leader will meet and greet at the main entrance at drop off and collection times.
- Parents are most welcome to telephone the school to arrange a personal conversation via telephone or face-to-face with their child's Group Leader.
- To help a smooth transition at the start and end of the day, main nursery will have just two variations in start and finish times: Orange Group will continue to have a separate start and finish time. Group start and finish times will be shared with you by your child's Group Leader.
- In order to reduce transmission between home and nursery school, please provide a few sets of spare clothes, clearly labelled with your child's name. These may be kept in your child's drawstring bag, which can be purchased online as part of our starter packs, via 'eduspot'.

- Water bottles are also provided in our starter packs via 'eduspot'. These are clear plastic bottles with simple fastenings that are ideal for cleaning at home daily after school.
- Lunchboxes should be hard plastic so that they are easy to clean on a daily basis.
- If a child or member of staff **starts** to develop Covid-19 symptoms, the school will take immediate action, following the Birmingham City Council Public Health Flowchart.
- We have a Contingency Framework, based upon Birmingham City Council's Outbreak Management Plan as it may be necessary to implement further measures in response to recommendations provided by the local authority (LA), directors of public health (DsPH), Public Health England (PHE) health protection team or the national government.

#### **Birmingham City Council's Outbreak Management Plan for Schools (September 2021)**

It may be necessary to implement additional measures in the following circumstances:

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school / setting. Actions will need to be considered when either of the following thresholds are met:

For most settings:

- There are 5 positive cases amongst pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely within a 10-day period
- 10% of pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive within a 10-day period
- If COVID-19 infection rates in the community are extremely high, and other measures have failed to reduce transmission
- As part of a package of measures responding to a 'variant of concern' (VoC)
- To prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

When one of the thresholds above is met, schools and settings will need to review the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures already in place.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-summer-2021-roadmap/moving-to-step-4-of-the-roadmap>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1011704/20210817\\_Contingency\\_Framework\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011704/20210817_Contingency_Framework_FINAL.pdf)

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/16644/public\\_health\\_flowchart\\_for\\_schools\\_updated\\_september\\_2021](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/16644/public_health_flowchart_for_schools_updated_september_2021)

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/20283/outbreak\\_management\\_plan\\_for\\_schools\\_september\\_2021](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/20283/outbreak_management_plan_for_schools_september_2021)