Covid 19 Policy 2025/26

Review		
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Breakout Management Plan: Outbreak of COVID19 in local area

If a local area sees a spike in coronavirus (COVID-19) infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, appropriate authorities will decide which measures to implement to help contain the spread – these measures could include the full or partial closure of schools in the area and/or the reimplementation of a system of 'bubbles'.
Lord Gowthorpe's's Outbreak Management Plan outlines how the provision will operate if a local lockdown is implemented.

If a local lockdown is implemented in our area, the school will work closely with the local health protection team (HPT) and implement provisions as advised by the team.
This is a live document that will be reviewed by the Principles in conjunction with other key stakeholders as and when the situation develops. It will sit alongside the COVID19 Risk Assessment which will also be enacted in an outbreak in the provision or local area.

Focus Details of Provision
Attendance
-Partial closure
If some attendance restrictions are needed, all vulnerable children, children of critical workers, children in each class will still be allowed to attend in bubbles.
-Full closure

If, by exception, attendance is restricted further, vulnerable children and children of critical workers will still be allowed to attend.

Onsite Provision
Pupils
In the event of a local lockdown, the provision will continue to offer on-site provisions for eligible pupils – eligible pupils are likely to be vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers.

The number of pupils who will be attending provision from these groups will be identified by contacting parents via phone, email and text – this number will be used to agree what staffing resources are required. Vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers are permitted to travel into and out of the area for education – this includes parents/carers/taxi drivers taking their children to provision.
In circumstances where a parent or carer of a child with a social worker does not want their child to attend the school, the school and the child's social worker will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent or carer, and work together with them to support the child to attend.

The Principles will work with all relevant staff to decide appropriate pupil bubbles. We will work on the basic principle that class sizes are no larger than four and that one teacher will be allocated to each bubble. We will also ensure that support is in place for those pupils with SEND who are attending school.
Pupils will be kept in the same bubbles at all times each day, and different groups will not mix during the day, or on subsequent days.
The same staff will be assigned to each bubble and, as far as possible, staff will stay assigned to the same bubble during the day and on subsequent days.

Staff
Critical workers, which includes school staff, are permitted to travel into and out of the lockdown areas to get to work, in order to maintain provision for pupils who will be attending on-site provision.

If shielding measures are reintroduced due to the local lockdown, affected members of staff will be supported to work from home or the appropriate leave or pay measures will be discussed.
Staff with roles that must be undertaken on site (e.g. teachers) will be asked to come into school to deliver provision, unless they are shielding or self-isolating. Staff members who are able to carry out their role from home will be supported to do so.

An audit of all staff will be conducted to assess who is able to work on site and who will need to work from home due to their underlying health issues or those of the people they live with. The audit will be reviewed on a continuous basis to establish whether the circumstances of any staff member have changed.

If any staff member has concerns regarding working on the school site, they will discuss these concerns with their line manager.

Parents
Parents will not be permitted to enter the premises unless invited. The only access for parents is via the door that leads to the helpdesk. Face coverings are mandatory when parents are on site.

Infection Control
The provision's operational risk assessment will continue to be adhered to – this meets the requirements set out in the DfE's system of controls. Any member of the school community who displays symptoms of coronavirus will be encouraged to take a PCR test. Essential workers, including school staff, have priority access to testing.

Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
Most staff will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases:
-children, young people and learners whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way PPE should be worn if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained from any child, young person or other learner displaying coronavirus symptoms
-During a 'breakout', face coverings will be worn in communal areas by staff and visitors.

Hand Hygiene
We will continue to ensure that children clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser. Every classroom has a hygiene box and supplies are replenished weekly.

Respiratory Hygiene
The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important. Discrete lessons highlight the importance of good hygiene for keeping everyone safe.
The class hygiene charter will be revisited regularly throughout the term.

Ventilation
All occupied spaces are kept well ventilated. Where it is safe to do so, windows and doors are kept open to improve natural ventilation. Mechanical ventilation systems are adjusted to increase the ventilation rate.

Cleaning
An enhanced cleaning regime is in place. This includes regular cleaning of areas and equipment with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.

Asymptomatic testing - staff
Staff have been advised to continue to undertake twice weekly Lateral Flow Tests (LFT). Staff and children with a positive LFT result are told they no-longer need to self-isolate in line with the guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection. To prevent spreading we will advise children to stay at home. After 10 days or a negative LFT then the child can return.

Pupils who develop symptoms

If a pupil develops symptoms of coronavirus while on site, they will be taken to a designated isolation area while they wait to be collected. If required, the pupil will be supervised while they await collection. If the supervising member of staff is unable to maintain social distancing e.g., due to the pupil's age or needs, they will wear PPE. After the pupil has left the premises, any areas they were in will be cleaned. The pupil's parents/carers will be encouraged to get their child tested. The pupil will be required to self-isolate for 10 full days – remote education will be arranged for them immediately. Any pupils who have been in close contact with a symptomatic individual do not need to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves then they should complete a LFT.

Staff who develop symptoms
If a staff member develops symptoms while on site, they will be directed to go home to take a LFT. Cover arrangements will be put in place. Any staff members or children who have been in close contact with a symptomatic individual do not need to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves or the individual subsequently tests positive.

Parent or family member tests positive
If a parent of, or someone who lives in the same household as a pupil tests positive, then everyone in the household should take a LFT test if they develop any symptoms.

After a positive result
If an individual tests positive, the school will contact the local HPT. Parents/carers of the individual's close contacts at the provision will be encouraged to take a LFT test. If more individuals test positive, the school will follow advice from the local HPT, which may include requiring more people to self-isolate.

Admitting children back to school
In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a child with symptoms should not attend the setting, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a child attending, the provision can decide to refuse the child if it is judged necessary to protect other children and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. The decision would be made after careful consideration of all the circumstances and current public health advice.

Remote Education
In the event of a total or partial lockdown, the provision will offer immediate access to remote education for all pupils who are required to remain at home. If there is not a local lockdown, but a single class or bubble needs to self-isolate, the school will immediately implement remote education for that group. If an individual tests positive and is well enough to complete work, remote education will be offered immediately.

Teaching and Learning
All pupils will have access to high-quality education when remote working. The school will use a range of teaching methods to cater for all different learning styles.
When teaching pupils who are working remotely, teachers will:

o Set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day.
o Deliver a planned, coherent and well-sequenced curriculum which allows skills to be built incrementally.

o Provide frequent, clear explanations of new content through high-quality curriculum resources, including through educational videos.
o Assess progress by using questions and other suitable tasks and be clear on how regularly work will be checked.
o Adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding.
o Plan a programme that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school, ideally including daily contact with teachers.
o Provide feedback in line with the policy.
All provisions for remote education will be subject to the child's age, ability and/or any SEND.

In exceptional circumstances, the school may reduce its curriculum offering to enable pupils to cope with the workload – the Principles will assess this need, keeping pupils' best interests in mind, and will not take the decision lightly.
Teachers will continue to make use of formative assessments throughout the academic year, e.g. quizzes. Where necessary, laptops will be made available to children through the DfE Computer for Schools scheme.. Free Wi-Fi is also available for those families without internet access. Arrangements will be made for parents/carers, who request paper versions of learning packs, to collect packs/receive posted packs and return completed packs to school.

SEND provision
Teachers will ensure lessons are inclusive for all pupils and can be adapted to account for the needs of disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND.
Physical home learning boxes developed in school will be sent home with the pupils with EHCP's. These pupils will also have an additional daily live learning.
The SENCO will make weekly check-ins with the parents/carers of pupils with high needs.

Child Protection
Ensuring safeguarding arrangements remain effective while the school is partially closed is a key priority. Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy was updated during the national lockdown to include provisions for keeping pupils safe during the coronavirus pandemic – we will continue to follow these procedures for pupils who remain at home, where appropriate, until all pupils are able to return to school.

Procedures
We will continue to ensure that:
o The best interests of pupils always come first.
o If anyone in the school has a safeguarding concern about a pupil, they act immediately.
o A DSL or deputy DSL is always available.
o Unsuitable individuals are not permitted to work with pupils or come into contact with pupils whilst on site or via our learning
platform.
o Pupils who remain at home are protected when they are online.
o Children are aware of the online whistle blowing tool access via the website. This helps us to identify potential risks and act at the earliest possible point.

Well-being
At Lord Gowthorpe's, we are committed to supporting the emotional health and well-being of our whole community. We know that everyone experiences life challenges that can make us vulnerable and, at times, anyone may need additional emotional support.

Support from the SENCo for children with special educational needs:

o The SENCo/ class teacher/ LSA will contact parents/carers to support in establishing routines, explain the use of equipment and other online activities/ resources that will help their children with their learning
o The SENCo will explain the use of the resources for SEND pupils. The SENCo will make additional well-being calls to the families of children with an EHCP (this includes those families whose children's statements are pending). We also signpost other professions to families who require additional support:
o Autism outreach worker
o Educational psychologist
o CAMHS

Pupils
Bespoke online safety lessons will be delivered during periods of remote learning.

Staff
Plans have been, and will continue to be, developed alongside staff. Opportunities to review systems and ways of working are regularly reviewed with staff.
Teaching and support staff will be organised into teams. All teams are led by a member of the SLT who checks in weekly with team members either via phone, a group text, or TEAMS.
The SLT meet weekly via TEAMS.

Communication

Parents
The provision will communicate its plan for a local lockdown with parents/carers, including whether it will remain open to vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers, or if remote working will be applicable for all. All relevant stakeholders will be kept up-to-date with the circumstances of the local lockdown and how it affects the provision as they develop.
We will do this via:
o Text
o The website
o Email
o Phone

Making Contact
If any member of the school community wishes to discuss any concerns relating to the provision during this period, they should contact the following people as appropriate:
• Staff – Principles
• Pupils – Provision office team

• Parents/carers – the provision office in the first instance SLT The SLT will continue to meet weekly, either in person or via TEAMS.

Educational Visits

Trips

Any educational day visits must be conducted in line with relevant coronavirus (COVID-19) secure guidelines and regulations in place at that time. This includes system of controls, such as keeping children within their consistent groups and the COVID-secure measures in place at the destination. We will undertake full and thorough risk assessments in relation to all educational visits to ensure they can be undertaken safely. As part of this risk assessment, we will need to consider what control measures need to be used and follow wider advice on visiting indoor and outdoor venues. We will consult the health and safety guidance on educational visits when considering visits. Visits will be considered on a case-by-case basis.