London Borough of Waltham Forest –Health and Safety Team



Risk Assessment v3

Description of Activity / Person / Area / Equipment being assessed	Preventing Covid-19 spread in a School Environment
Reference	This risk assessment is based on the Schools Coronavirus Operational Guidance issued in February 2021,
Location(s) covered	Walthamstow School for Girls
Date of Original Assessment	July 2020

What date did staff, covered by this risk assessment, have the opportunity to comment on this risk assessment?		
Are staff covered by this risk assessment aware of the controls noted and understand them?	Yes	No
Copy of form sent to Trade Union Safety Representative	Yes	No

Has action been taken	YES / NO / ONGOING / NONE REQUIRED (Please circle)
Confirmed by Line Manager?	YES / NO
Lead Assessors name (print)	David Kilgallon Director of Learning and System Leadership, London Borough of Waltham Forest
Lead Assessor's signature	
Date:	1/3/21

Has action been taken	YES / NO / ONGOING / NONE REQUIRED (Please circle)
Headteacher's name	Helen Marriott
Headteacher's signature	enout
Date:	1/3/21

Review Dates

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Future Review Date (depends on Action Plan findings)	Actual Review Date	Were Changes Made?	Name of Lead Reviewer	Date Staff updated about change
04/09/2020	02/09/2020	Yes	Dave Garioch / H&S Team	
06/11/2020	18/01/2021	Yes, isolation days	Mike Hill / H&S Team	
28/2/202	23/02/2021	Yes, in line with <u>Schools Coronavirus</u> Operational Guidance	Dave Garioch	

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Significant hazards and current controls

No	Hazard/Hazardous Event (What can go wrong)	People at risk	What is currently being done to control the hazard/hazardous event	Risk Rating -High/Med/ Low
1	Spread of Covid-19 Coronavirus	Everyone at school, including contractors and visitors	The school will follow the government Schools Coronavirus Operational Guidance where reasonably practicable: Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by regular contact with parents and staff to identify those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school Ensure that pupils, staff and other adults do not come into the school if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or have tested positive in the last 10 days. If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, or positive home Lateral Flow Test, which sets out that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange to have a PCR test to see if they have Covid 19. Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 10 days from the day the individual showed symptoms or after the individual tested positive from a PCR test. Any household members of that individual that are also within school should also be sent home (e.g. siblings). Any child awaiting collection, will be moved to the covered patio which has external ventilation where they can be isolated, depending on the age and needs of the child, with appropriate adult supervision if required. A separate toilet for them to use is the disabled toilet next to G25. The toilet will be cleaned using standard disinfectant before use by anyone else. Staff will maintain 2m distance from the child at all times. Where a 2m distance cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs) the following guidance will be followed safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings, including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) guidance. Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptom	Low

No	Hazard/Hazardous Event (What can go wrong)	People at risk	What is currently being done to control the hazard/hazardous event	Risk Rating -High/Med/ Low
			 Everyone must wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and running water or use hand sanitiser after any contact with someone who is unwell. The area around the person with symptoms must be cleaned with normal household disinfectant after they have left to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings outside the home guidance First Aid may be administered in close proximity, but First Aiders should pay particular attention to sanitation measures immediately afterwards including washing hands; see further guidance on First Aid during Covid-19. 	
2	Poor hand hygiene spreads Covid-19	Everyone	 An assessment of hand hygiene needs has been completed and there are adequate hand hygiene and handwashing facilities available for staff and pupils Staff and pupils must clean their hands regularly, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating. Regular and thorough hand cleaning is going to be needed for the foreseeable future. Pupils instructed and supervised about the risks of ingesting hand sanitiser. Small children and pupils with complex needs are continued to be helped to clean their hands properly. Skin friendly skin cleaning wipes are used as an alternative 	Low
			Staff and pupils have been informed about good hand hygiene technique from the NHS.	
3	Poor respiratory hygiene spread Covid-19, including not wearing face coverings	Everyone	 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach is essential, so the school has enough tissues and bins available in the school to support pupils and staff to follow this routine. Staff will support younger children and those with complex needs are helped to get this right, and all pupils understand that this is now part of how school operates. Face coverings are now recommended to be used more widely: Secondary Schools: staff and pupils are encouraged to wear face coverings at all times, unless for operational or exemption reasons Special Schools and Alternative Provision will consider what arrangements work best for their wider school community The Government guidance on face coverings in education will be checked regularly along with local infection rates to inform the use of face coverings as a control. Staff and students have been reminded wearing a face covering is in addition to the controls already in place. Face coverings are generally one use only, so when you take a face covering 	Low

No	Hazard/Hazardous Event (What can go wrong)	People at risk	What is currently being done to control the hazard/hazardous event	Risk Rating -High/Med/ Low
			off it should be placed directly into a plastic bag to keep separate from clean face coverings. It is very likely wearers will need to have at least two face coverings to use each day and possibly more. There are several exemptions to wearing face coverings, so not all staff and secondary school pupils may be wearing them. There is an exemption badge that anyone exempt can use, some may wear badges or lanyards to indicate exemption. • The BBC has a good video for how to wear a face covering.	
4	Poor levels of cleanliness spread Covid-19	Everyone	 The government guidance for cleaning in non-healthcare settings outside home is applied to ensure appropriate controls are put in place A cleaning schedule is in place and includes: more frequent cleaning of rooms / shared areas that are used by different groups frequently touched surfaces being cleaned more often than normal records to be kept Different groups don't need to be allocated their own toilet blocks, toilets will be cleaned regularly and pupils will be encouraged to clean their hands thoroughly after using the toilet 	Low
5	Poor use of equipment and cleaning arrangements	Everyone	 Individual and very frequently used equipment, such as pencils and pens, are not shared. Classroom based resources, such as books and games, shared within the group are frequently cleaned, along with all commonly touched surfaces. Shared resources, e.g. sports, art, music and science equipment and cases, are meticulously cleaned regularly and always between groups, or rotated to allow them to be left unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between different bubbles. Outdoor playground equipment is cleaned more frequently. This also applies to resources used inside and outside during any wraparound provision. Pupils have been advised to limit the equipment they bring into school each day, to essentials such as lunch boxes, hats, coats, books, stationery and mobile phones. Bags are allowed. Pupils and teachers are allowed to take books and other shared resources home, avoiding unnecessary sharing only where it contribute to pupil education and development. 	Low
6	Poor social distancing spreads Covid-19	Everyone	 Teachers maintain 2m social distance from the pupils, staying at the front of the class, and away from their colleagues where possible. Staff will maintain 2m distance from each other. Groups or pupils will be kept separate (in 'bubbles') and the layout of rooms will help maintaining distance between individuals. The groupings and layout have been developed to address: 	Medium

Commented [HM1]: New system

No	Hazard/Hazardous Event (What can go wrong)	People at risk	What is currently being done to control the hazard/hazardous event	Risk Rating -High/Med/ Low
			 children's ability to distance the lay out of the school the feasibility of keeping distinct groups separate while offering a broad curriculum (especially at secondary) Pupils should sit side by side and facing forwards, rather than face to face or side on. For younger children the emphasis will be on separating groups, and for older children it will be on distancing. For children old enough, they will be supported to maintain distance and not touch staff where possible. In the event of a fire alarm activation everyone will make their way out of the nearest safe exit then reinstate social distancing when outside away from building, as it is more important to have a quick clearing of the building(s) for life safety. 	
7	Lack of Personal Protective Equipment spreads Covid-19	Staff	 The majority of staff will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work. PPE is only needed where: an individual child or young person becomes ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while at schools, and only then if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained a child or young person already has routine intimate care needs that involves the use of PPE, in which case the same PPE should continue to be used The guidance on <u>safe working in education</u>, <u>childcare and children's social care</u> will be followed for when, how PPE should be used, what type of PPE to use, and how to source it. 	Low
8	Occupied spaces are not well-ventilated or are too cold	Everyone	Rooms are aired as much as possible by keeping windows open to the outside at least 10 minutes per hour; where practicable windows are kept cracked open when the school is open. Windows and doors to the outside are opened at breaktimes and lunchtimes. Where this impacts on thermal comfort staff and students will be reminded to wear warm clothing; schools will be flexible with uniform requirements To maintain a comfortable temperature: • high level windows will be opened in preference to low level to reduce draughts • where reasonably practicable ventilation will be increased when spaces are unoccupied, e.g. between classes, during break and lunch, and when a room is unused • furniture has been rearranged, where possible, to avoid direct drafts; • the heating has been adjusted to maintain comfort levels in occupied spaces	Low

No	Hazard/Hazardous Event (What can go wrong)	People at risk	What is currently being done to control the hazard/hazardous event	Risk Rating -High/Med/ Low
			The ventilation system has been checked against the <u>CIBSE guidance</u> . Where necessary the maintenance company have carried out checks and provided guidance on the safe operation of the ventilation system.	
9	Spread of Covid-19 goes unchecked	Everyone	 The school will engage fully with the local authority's public health team's Local Outbreak Control Plan and the NHS Test and Trace system Staff and parents/carers have been advised they will need to be ready and willing to: book a test if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test & Trace self-isolate if they live in a household with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), or if asked to do so by NHS Test and Trace Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. Staff, as essential workers, have priority access to testing. The business continuity plan has been updated on actions to take to cover the four tiers of restriction identified in the government guidance listed at the end of this risk assessment 	Low
10	Staff or students are asymptomatic carriers of the Covid-19 virus	Everyone	Lateral Flow Rapid testing in schools Secondary schools will use lateral flow testing to help identify asymptomatic infections and will have a separate risk assessment to detail the appropriate controls following the updated government guidance. Staff not undertaking the regular testing, will need to have higher levels of management supervision to monitor they are following the controls in this risk assessment, due to up to one third of infectious people being asymptomatic	Low

No	Hazard/Hazardous Event (What can go wrong)	People at risk	What is currently being done to control the hazard/hazardous event	Risk Rating -High/Med/ Low
11	There is a school confirmed case of Covid-19	Everyone	 As set out in the Local Outbreak Control Plan, if made aware of a positive case in a staff or pupil, the SBM/Head will follow the London Coronavirus Response Centre (LCRC) resource pack guidance and the DfE on 0800 046 8687 selecting option 1 for advice on isolation of contacts and for a risk assessment to be completed. The SBM / Head will notify the Public Health Team. The LCRC/DfE will provide guidance on communications and letter templates for schools to send to staff, parents of contacts, and the wider school community. Ongoing infection control advice and support will be made available to schools via the Public Health team The school follow Government guidance on testing and tracing for coronavirus (COVID-19). 	Low
12	Pupils and staff use public transport to get to and leave school	Everyone	 Pupils and staff have been advised to cycle, scoot or walk to school Extra secure cycle parking has been installed Where practicable start and finish times have been amended for groups of pupils to reduce the travel risk. Families using public transport should refer to the <u>safer travel guidance for passengers</u> 	Medium
13	Member of school community is clinically extremely vulnerable / clinically vulnerable and staff at an increased risk from Covid-19	Extremely clinically vulnerable person	 Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Following the reintroduction of shielding, clinically extremely vulnerable staff are advised that they will not attend the workplace, where possible they will work from home. If a member of staff needs support to work at home they are encouraged to apply for Access to Work. This will be reviewed regularly and follow updated government guidance. Clinically Vulnerable and those at greater risk should follow the government Schools Coronavirus Operational Guidance The school will carry out individual risk assessments for Pregnant women in line with the guidance from the Royal College of Gynaecologists. A separate Individual Health Risk Assessment has been carried out for members of staff in the above groups and for those identifying themselves as at higher risk. 	Low
14	Pupils and staff at increased risk of mental ill-health	Pupils and Staff	The Department for Education is providing additional support for both pupil and staff wellbeing in the current situation. Information about this is included in the government Schools Coronavirus Operational Guidance Other resources that may be used include webinar for school staff advising how to support pupil and student mental wellbeing. 	Low

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No	Hazard/Hazardous Event (What can go wrong)	People at risk	What is currently being done to control the hazard/hazardous event	Risk Rating -High/Med/ Low
			 PHE support children and young people's mental health and wellbeing, and Good Thinking Being active see the Association for Physical Education, Youth Sport Trust & Sport England. PHE and the NHS Every Mind Matters and Good Thinking campaigns to help take action to look after mental health and wellbeing. A training module, teaching about mental wellbeing, can improve teacher confidence in talking and teaching about mental health and wellbeing. The Education Support Partnership provides a free helpline for school staff and targeted support for mental health and wellbeing. Promote the youth online mental wellbeing community Kooth Consider training key/all staff in Psychological first aid for young people The school has an employee assistance provider with the following free phone number: 0800 328 1437 and this has been promoted to all staff. Teachers may wish to access the free MindEd learning platform for professionals, which includes a coronavirus (COVID-19) staff resilience hub with materials on peer support, stress, fear and trauma and bereavement. Schools will work with school nursing services, as leaders of the healthy child programme, to support the health and wellbeing of pupils 	
15	Lack of staff resources increases risk from Covid-19	Everyone	 Staff have been asked to work as flexibly as possible. Managers have discussed and agreed any changes before they have been put in place. The school has reviewed existing practices and have used the DfE's workload reduction toolkit. Staff have been made aware of the DfE range of resources, including case studies to support remote education and help address workload. Reference will be made to the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) guidance on making the best use of teaching assistants to help primary and secondary schools. 	Low
16	Peripatetic / supply staff increase risk of Covid-19	Everyone	 All peripatetic and supply staff have confirmed they are not suffering any Covid-19 symptoms (new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) before arriving on site. Records of peripatetic and supply teachers are kept for 21 days after their arrival and will be available for any Test and Trace purposes. The DfE guidance will be followed, including keeping children safe in education. 	Low

No	Hazard/Hazardous Event (What can go wrong)	People at risk	W	hat is currently being done to control the hazard/hazardous event	Risk Rating -High/Med/ Low
17	Pupil behaviour increased risk of Covid-19	Everyone	•	The behaviour policy has been updated to reflect the requirements of minimising Covid-19 spread and have been made available to pupils and parents before the start of term	Low
18	Students behaviour in alternative provision may increase risk of Covid -19	Everyone	•	Where appropriate, separate risk assessments are undertaken for each pupil/class/year groups to ensure all are protected. The results of the assessments are integrated into the daily operation of the school	Low
19	Teaching requires close supervision, e.g. power tools in D&T	Teacher and pupil	•	Guidance from CLEAPSS will be followed on how to use power tools safely during the Covid-19 Pandemic	Low
20	Exposure to Covid- 19 during educational visits	Staff and pupils on visit	•	The school will follow the government <u>Schools Coronavirus Operational Guidance</u> for the safe provision of educational visits.	Low
21	Exposure to Covid- 19 during PE	PE Staff and pupils	•	The school will follow the government <u>Schools Coronavirus Operational Guidance</u> for the safe provision of PE and any team sports.	Low
22	Exposure to Covid- 19 during music, dance and drama	Music staff and pupils	•	The school will follow the government <u>Schools Coronavirus Operational Guidance</u> for the safe provision music, dance and drama.	Low
23	Extra-curricular activities increase risk of Covid-19	Everyone	•	The school will follow the government <u>Schools Coronavirus Operational Guidance</u> for the safe provision of extra-curricular and wraparound activities.	Low
24	Dedicated school transport increases the risk of Covid- 19	Pupils	•	The school will follow the government Schools Coronavirus Operational Guidance for the safe provision of dedicated school transport Dedicated transport providers will be asked for their risk assessments to ensure the DfE guidance is being followed The school and local authority will work closely and in partnership together to ensure the school bus service is safe and sufficient.	Low

No	Hazard/Hazardous Event (What can go wrong)	People at risk	What is currently being done to control the hazard/hazardous event	Risk Rating -High/Med/ Low
25	Catering staff increase the risk of Covid-19	Everyone	The catering provider will follow the government <u>Schools Coronavirus Operational Guidance</u> for the safe provision of school meals.	Low
26	Building not maintained/used without maintenance undertaken	Everyone	 all the usual pre-term building checks have been undertaken to make the school safe, including managing the risks of Legionnaires' disease. The following guidance has been followed <u>Legionella risks during the coronavirus outbreak</u>. The advice on safely reoccupying buildings from the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers' guidance on <u>emerging from lockdown</u> has also been followed. 	Low
28	Staff and parents unsure what to do in the event of a local lockdown due to a local outbreak of Covid-19	Everyone	 The school business continuity plan has been updated to include procedures to follow in the event of a local lockdown The SBM/Head will contact the <u>Public Health Team</u> and follow their advice, including what is in the <u>Local Outbreak Control Plan</u>, and share with staff and parents. Guidance on communications and letter templates for schools to send to parents and staff will be shared via LCRC (London Coronavirus Response Centre) Infection control support and training will be made available to staff via Public Health 	Low

Risk Rating: if High or Medium use Action Plan

High = current controls totally inadequate with serious consequences: death(s), serious injury, long-term ill health, or there is a very high frequency of the hazard/hazardous event occurring Immediate action required, may require task to be suspended until issue resolved

Medium = current controls still poor but consequences less serious: minor injury, short-term ill health with no lasting effects, Action required in specific timeframe, normally within 3/6 months, may be sooner dependent on how serious an issue it is

Low = current controls are adequate to minimise the risk so far as reasonably practicable, check still relevant at next review date

Action Plan for Improvement

No.	Hazard/Hazardous Event (What can go wrong)	Action required to reduce risk so far as is reasonably practicable	Residual Risk	By Whom	Target Date	Completi on Date	Completed By
1, 4 & 21	Refer to the above numbers	A review of the revised guidance issued in August 2020 will be incorporated into this risk assessment	Low	Headtea cher/SB M	28 Aug 2020	31 Aug 2020	Headteacher
2	Poor hand hygiene spreads the virus	 A review of the following will be carried out and addressed during the summer holidays: whether the school has enough hand washing or hand sanitiser 'stations' available so that all students and staff can clean their hands regularly. See 2 above re additional outdoor handwashing stations installed to supplement hand washing facilities on entry/break/lunchtime. supervision of hand sanitiser use given risks around ingestion. Skin friendly skin cleaning wipes can be used as an alternative. 	Low	SBM	1 Aug 2020	15 Aug 2020	Business Manager
5	Poor social distancing spreads the virus	 This is school dependant following DfE guidance The following controls are in place for classrooms: forward facing desks 2m distance between teacher and students The following controls are in place for corridors: year groups taught in zones on separate floors within their own 'bubble' 	Low	Headtea cher	28 Aug 2020	31 Aug 2020	Headteacher

	•	The following controls are in place for toilets:			
		-soap and handtowels available in every toilet area with hand driers turned off			
		-lidded pedal bins for used handtowels			
		-controlled access to facilities			
		-cleaner employed to sanitise areas after every break			
	•	The following controls are in place for staff rooms:			
	•	- use of kitchen area for a max. 2 persons			
	•	-ventilation in main area with open windows and door			
	•	-numbers limited to 15 (staffroom is the size of a large classroom)			
	•	The following controls are in place for offices:			
	•	-depending on size, max. numbers permitted posted on doors eg Front Office max office remains at 4			
	•	The following controls are in place for outside areas:			
	•	-Students (aged 11-16) are supervised remotely outside at staggered breaktimes and will wash hands frequently in bathrooms/ at wash stations			
	•	The following are in place for other areas:			
	•	-Clear signage indicating social distancing and 'catch it, bag it, bin it' approach to controlling the spread of the virus			
	•	Signage indicating year group zones throughout the school			

6	Poor social distancing spreads the virus	 This is school dependant following DfE guidance The following controls are in place for classrooms: The following controls are in place for corridors: The following controls are in place for toilets: The following controls are in place for staff rooms: The following controls are in place for offices: The following controls are in place for outside areas: The following are in place for other areas: 	Low	Head	26 Aug 2020	
11	Increased risk from new COVID variant for staff working in school delivering remote education / participating in INSET	Staff to ensure that at least 2m distance is maintained at all times, including in offices. Staff to wear masks at all times when in same room as other staff. Strict adherence to guidelines about numbers of staff in rooms. Meetings to take place on Teams wherever possible, allowing staff to work separately. Individual RAs available to members of staff where there is increased risk. Visors available for staff who require additional protection, as well as a mask. Staff who travel by public transport can work from home or can request a paid taxi/ request an additional parking space Ventilation available in majority of rooms; staff should request alternative rooms if they usually work in Performing Arts; Languages office. Staff should avoid use of shared areas, e.g. faculty rooms and staff room.	Low	Headtea cher	3 Jan 2021	

12	Pupils and staff use public transport to get to and leave school	The school with work with Local Authority colleagues on mapping pupil journeys to identify if any further controls can be put in place, e.g. walking bus	Low	Head	31 Aug 2020	
		At the start of the school term Pupils and Staff will be shown and trained in how to put on and remove their face covering, dispose/store safely	Low	SMT	7 Sep 2020	
		Pupils will be shown how to wash/sanitise their hands before/on entering the building and monitored each day				
13	Increased risk from new COVID variant for staff dealing with visitors in school (students and parents) during January opening period.	Visits from students and parents to collect books or equipment should be kept to a minimum, except where deemed necessary for educational reasons and to fulfil the school's statutory duties. Planning should ensure that social distancing of at least 2m can be maintained at all times. Where possible, any books or equipment should be issued outside in order that aerosol transmission is minimised, masks should be worn by all parties and gloves may be worn as an additional precaution where multiple items are being handled over a short period of time. Hand sanitiser should be used at all times before exchanging items and visitors should be instructed to sanitise as soon as they enter the reception area or approach the desks situated outside the building. Where books or equipment need to be issued through reception, staff have the protection of a glass barrier and should ensure that sanitiser is used (as above) or wear gloves when handling multiple items.	Low	Headtea cher	23/1/21	

	Enhanced cleaning of the reception area should be			
	undertaken where pre-planned collections by			
	parents or students are taking place.			

Risk Assessment Review: During review of this risk assessment, any new controls identified in the action plan that are now in place should be transferred to the "Significant hazards and current controls" page to reflect the improvements made.