

Arun Court School

Covid 19 Risk Assessment – September 2020

The school remained open, with almost 50% of students attending, alongside an online offer with visits, interactive classes etc, during the pandemic. We have adapted that risk assessment, referencing the changed guidance where applicable, to allow the full 20 students and staff on the site. We strongly encourage families to work with us and ensure that students all return to physical on site learning as this best supports their mental well-being.

System of Controls 1-5 must be in place at all times, 6 to be considered, 7 in special circumstances

1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell.

Parents have all been provided with what to do if their child has any form of illness at this time – they call and discuss with the H.T or other SLT member. Whilst core symptoms such as cough and temperature should result in the young person being kept at home and parents getting advice from NHS services, we have strengthened this as we recognise that some students may be less obviously symptomatic. Information has also been sent out regarding track and trace.

2. Where recommended use of face coverings in school

All our young people are 'exempt' technically, but we are strongly encouraging the wearing of face masks especially when out on walks. We are doing this because some young people actively want to wear them, and we need these young people (who have complex mental health needs / OCD) to feel comfortable and 'able to'. All young people have been shown the correct procedures for putting on and taking off masks.

Staff have been required to always wear face shields (as we have young people who may shout, and could spit) and we strongly encourage the use of face masks when 'closing the gap' to work with a student in need.

3. Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual

Break reminders – 4 sinks available in school to 20 students and 12 staff.

Every student desk is supplied with a small bottle of gel. (additional safety risk assessment in place regarding potential for ingestion) and clinnel wipes

4. Ensure good respiratory hygiene – 'catch it, bin it, kill it'

A 'feather test' has been used to look at the air flow across the building and windows are being left open during the day in the most effective places to help circulate fresh air. The air con system is not being used.

All work-stations have tissues provided and bins are emptied as soon as they are used for tissues

Posters were already on site promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' phrase before the pandemic, but students have been reminded

DO NOT WEDGE OPEN FIRE DOORS, OTHER DOORS CAN BE LEFT OPEN

5. Introduce enhanced cleaning, including frequently touched surfaces, using standard products such as bleach

Cleaners are carrying out enhanced cleaning daily with bleach (locked in COSH cupboard at other times due to suicide risk with our students etc)

Clinnel wipes are available and also NHS recommended spray – staff to ‘wipe as they go’ throughout the day, as well as wipe downs each break time. (sprays to be placed in sharps cupboard – locked. Wipes left out but 100% adult supervision at all times)

6. Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing

We have ensured desks / work-stations are at least 1m apart and we have floor stickers telling students where to stand. There are also 2m sticks on the wall to demonstrate what a 1m and 2m distance is.

We have chosen to keep the school as a ‘bubble’ but have also tried to keep the 10 lower school away from the 10 upper school students at social times, when they tend to close the gap and need more reminders.

We have one-way traffic in the corridor, with teachers ensuring that students wait rather than pass each other

On walks staff have tabards requesting the public to keep a distance from our young people and social distancing is maintained

Front entrance desk has new protective screens so staff are shielded from those using the stairs or entering the building

7. Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment

We have chosen that in our circumstances face shields are appropriate at all times, and masks as adults feel appropriate. We do not deliver personal care, but we have certain children who are on positive touch plans devised by the OT as well as those who can shout / sing which in turn increases the risk of transmission.

Specific Lessons Outside

- *We will teach and learn outside as much as possible – using local communal grassed areas*
- *P.E will continue for outside sessions. Equipment will not be shared (or) will be ‘foot based’ e.g using a football to pass to each other.*
- *On all outside activities and walks a FIRST AID kit, plus SANITISER will be taken and used as needed. First Aid provision continues unchanged and in all cases the immediate injury/patient health is the priority. All first Aiders should use gloves and ensure they are using a face mask. If giving first aid inside then they should also wear a face shield.*
- *We will maintain social distancing as much as possible, and on walks at least two staff members (front and back of the line) should be wearing the fluorescent jackets that inform the public that they need to keep their distance. Staff should wear face masks.*
- *For swimming sessions we are using a private pool, with a clear Covid risk assessment and enhanced cleaning. 8 students only in the pool. Our qualified swim teacher (& life guard) will be supported by two further staff members; all pool-side. We will be following additional guidance laid out by Swim England.*

Normality

We intend to provide the entire curriculum, but in smaller groups if necessary. We will maintain social contact as much as possible.

Cooking – will be 1:1, staff wearing mask and visors. No equipment shared. Individually prepared food.

Social skills/ travel training – to go on as planned. Only visit areas we know to be covid risk assessed and where staff have pre-visited and produced individual risk assessments

Art/ sensory – individual materials (e.g putty, clay) staff to close the gap in PPE to ensure safety of tool use. This should not be necessary for long intervals of time nor should it be necessary to be face to face.

Students keep individual workbooks in their trays. Staff marking or accessing their books should wash and gel their hands between books.

No parent has requested wrap around provision or care at this time, all are anxious about the return

Sickness

If a child (or staff member) shows any symptoms at all, including those of a common cold, they should call the school for advice. We need to ensure that parents are directed to the correct NHS helpline for advice. We should also be providing details for testing and in turn complying in the case of a positive test track and trace as needed. – see detailed guidance.

Staff should keep a record of any time in their class where they feel contact has been for an extended period and transmission is a possibility – date, time, situation and which students (to support track and trace)

Any person showing symptoms should be isolated in the medical room with an open window and sent home. First aiders should wear full PPE. Any surfaces the patient has had contact with should be thoroughly deep cleaned once they have departed.

