

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Step 4 of the roadmap marks a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk. As we learn to live with COVID-19, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for two doses by mid-September.
- 1.2 This document is intended to inform of the approach the School has adopted and it has been created following guidance published regularly by the government, guidance from the City of London Corporation, and advice from the Independent School associations including ISBA, AGBIS and HMC.
- 1.3 The government's priority is to ensure we can deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils as the evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health. CLS continues to monitor new and revised guidance from the DfE and the HSE and implement recommendations accordingly to ensure CLS manages the risk of Covid as low as is reasonably practical whilst also minimising disruption to the education of its pupils.
- 1.4 A complete risk assessment has been completed for use by School staff and is available in school. This has been developed in line with government guidance, prior to review and approval by Governors and the City of London Corporation's Health and Safety and Surveyors (for Facilities Management) teams.

### 2. Summary of changes from Summer 2021

- 2.1 This section summarises the key changes from the routines and protocols which were in place during Summer Term 2021. Our control measures are kept under regular review. Some or all of the measures described in this section may be temporarily re-introduced in the event of a local outbreak and / or following advice from Public Health England. Suitable contingency planning will be in place for reintroduction of these measure, including return of bubbles.
- 2.2 **Bubbles**  
These are no longer necessary.
- 2.3 **Timings of the School day**

We revert to usual timings throughout the day.

#### 2.4 **Entrances and exits**

Pupils and staff should use the usual (pre-pandemic) entrances and exits. The gate by the DVA building will remain open for pupils who cycle to School.

#### 2.3 **Close contacts**

The School no longer needs to undertake contact tracing.

Those identified as a close contact will be informed by NHS Test and Trace that they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. The government strongly encourages all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. There is no requirement to self-isolate while awaiting PCR test results (from a test prompted by NHS Test and Trace) and so pupils and staff identified as close contacts should continue to attend School as normal.

#### 3.4 **Self-isolation**

Unvaccinated young people up to the age of 18 years and 6 months, and fully vaccinated adults, are now no longer required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, including if they live in the same household.

18 year-olds will be treated in the same way as children and young people until 6 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. After this point they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so, if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.

#### 3.5 **Face coverings**

These are no longer mandatory, apart from in the areas listed below. Pupils and staff may, however, wear face coverings in other areas of the School if they wish to do so.

Staff and pupils are required to wear face coverings in the following areas, (this will be reviewed at half term, or sooner if necessary):

- Corridors;
- During assemblies;
- Dining hall queue, café area at lunchtime and breaks;
- On all school transport;
- In the staff common room during breaks while walking through the room.

#### 2.5 **Social distancing**

Social distancing and one-way systems are no longer a requirement.

Classrooms remain set up with marked areas within which staff may maintain social distance if they wish to do so, but there is no requirement for staff to do this.

#### 2.6 **Mass gatherings**

Assemblies, parent gatherings and events may take place. Visitors are required to wear masks while in transit across the School site and in enclosed or crowded spaces.

### **3. Main control measures**

#### **3.1 Summary**

The School will:

- Ensure good hygiene measures are available for everyone;
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes including enhanced cleaning of high touch surfaces;
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated;
- Follow and encourage engagement with public health advice on testing, self-isolation, vaccinations programmes and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19.

#### **3.2 Hygiene**

Staff and pupils should continue to clean hands regularly with soap and water or hand sanitiser. The importance of the 'catch it, bin, kill it' approach remains.

Posters will remain in all toilet areas to advise users of how to maintain high standards of personal hygiene, and soaps and hand sanitisers will be checked daily by both the Operations team and Cleaning staff.

#### **3.3 Cleaning regimes**

An enhanced cleaning regime will remain in place in the School. Throughout the day, when pupils are present, seven 'Day Cleaners' will be permanently on site to provide further regular cleaning as required, focusing on toilet facilities, classrooms and sports facilities. A further day cleaner has been allocated to the School's sports facilities at Grove Park.

Standard cleaning methodology will be used, but a particular focus for cleaners will be high-touch surfaces around the school such as door handles and light switches. Cleaners will use microfibre clothes which will be washed daily.

Cleaning kits will remain in place in classrooms. Pupils may wipe desks and keyboards if they wish to do so but this is not mandatory. Staff are required to wipe their desk, keyboard and mouse at the end of a lesson if a different member of staff will next teach in that classroom.

#### **3.4 Ventilation**

All classrooms and offices with windows should have these open during the day, including break time and lunchtime, in order to increase ventilation. Doors should be propped open when classrooms and offices are in use.

A rolling programme of carbon dioxide measurement in classrooms, offices and other communal spaces will be in place from September 2021. This will programme follow the guidance set out by the Health and Safety Executive and any further advice and guidance provided by the Department for Education.

#### **3.5 Asymptomatic testing**

After initial in-school testing of pupils and staff should undertake twice weekly home tests. Staff and pupils with a positive lateral flow test should obtain a confirmatory PCR result and should self-isolate whilst awaiting the result. Providing the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow tests, and is negative, it overrides the LFD test. In this

instance the member of staff or pupil may return to school providing they do not have symptoms of COVID-19.

Results of LFD tests should be reported to NHS Test and Trace and also recorded on the Parent Portal.

### 3.6 **Management of confirmed cases**

Pupils and staff must self-isolate immediately and not come into the School, irrespective of vaccination status, if they have:

- symptoms of COVID-19 (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or loss or change to you sense of smell or taste) and/or
- a positive test result

Pupils who test positive must inform the Deputy Head (Pastoral); staff must inform the Senior Deputy Head.

If staff or pupils have tested positive by PCR for COVID-19, they will probably have developed some immunity to the disease. However, it cannot be guaranteed that everyone will develop immunity, or how long it will last. It is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection. Anyone who has previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result should not be re-tested within 90 days of that test, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19.

### 3.7 **Handshaking**

The School is delighted to welcome visitors and parents back on site but, for the moment, handshaking is not encouraged.

## 4. **Blended learning**

4.1 Pupils who have tested positive for COVID-19 but who are asymptomatic and well enough to do so may attend lessons from home. Pupils who are not well should not join lessons from home.

4.2 Parents should email [pastoraldeputyhead@cityoflondonschool.org.uk](mailto:pastoraldeputyhead@cityoflondonschool.org.uk) if their child is well enough to join lessons from home. Parents will need to provide consent for their child to receive blended learning.

4.3 In order to allow pupils to access blended learning, we will need to tell their specific subject teachers that they are at home but well enough to join lessons. This information is shared as a Legitimate Interest in order to minimise disruption to pupils' education.

## 5. **Monitoring and Review of Strategy**

5.1 This protocol is reviewed regularly and updated as required.

Strategy last reviewed by:	Mark Wardrop (Senior Deputy Head)
Date Strategy last reviewed:	August 2021