

Werneth School - COVID Risk Assessment from September 2021

This new risk assessment is written by the headteacher, following guidance from the Stockport local authority risk assessment for schools. This applies from September 21. The risk assessment is deliberately a simplified version of previous documentation, with key updates.

Potential hazards	Control measures at Werneth School
Pupils, staff, parents, visitors carrying virus into school	<p>Staff and students should not enter school premises if they are displaying any symptoms of Coronavirus, as detailed by latest government guidance: COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection).</p> <p>Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result 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).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school will maintain a separate space for students who are awaiting collection where they develop symptoms of Coronavirus. • School will continue to manage any Coronavirus issues via the School Medical Needs Officer megan.rothwell@wernethschool.com. She should be contacted by parents in the event of a positive case at home. • From August 16, children under the age of 18 are no longer required to self isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 cases. Contacts are only traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be only a few cases. • In the event of a member of staff requiring support re. Coronavirus, they should contact Pam Foy in the first instance, or Emma Sorsby for support staff. • If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. • Staff should continue to self test on a weekly basis using home testing kits. Students will also be provided with home testing kits. • All students for whom permission has been received from parents will be tested twice at the start of the autumn term. • Visitors will be maintained at a minimum level, and parents should not enter the building unless via prior appointment.
Mixing and “bubbles”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school COVID Operational Guidance from 19th July no longer recommends that children are separated into bubbles when in school. • It may be necessary to reintroduce bubbles if a major outbreak occurs within school. This will be communicated if required.
Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and students working together can reduce the risk of the virus being spread. • The school has an on-site cleaner available through each day, who will wear gloves to maintain clean surfaces around the building. The school is cleaned every evening. • Most staff do not need to wear PPE at any stage. The guidance on the use of PPE in education, childcare and children’s social care settings provides more information on the use of PPE for COVID-19. • Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should be regular practice using soap and water or hand sanitizers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Good practice is to wash hands at the start of the school day, break and lunchtime.
Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The school is fortunate to have a new building with built-in ventilation devices to assist the circulation of air. ● External windows can improve ventilation, as can the opening of internal doors.
Face Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff or visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. ● The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to schools. ● School will follow this advice within our building, and not require face coverings. However, should any individual - student or staff - wish to wear a face covering, their personal wish to do so will be honoured. We want every individual to feel safe in school. ● If there is an outbreak in school, Public Health may advise school that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by pupils, staff and visitors, unless exempt). In this event, school will communicate a clear message to all. ● In these circumstances, transparent face coverings, which may assist communication with someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate, can also be worn. Transparent face coverings may be effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19. However, the evidence to support this is currently very limited.
Other matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The school will continue to monitor cases daily, and liaise as appropriate. School Senior Leadership Team will formally review its risk assessment weekly. ● School will work with all relevant bodies in the event of an outbreak. ● School will provide remote learning where required. ● A reminder that attendance at school is required at all times, in line with government guidance.

Risk Assessment Updated 31/08/21