

COVID-19 SEPTEMBER FULL RE-OPENING Risk Assessment – Early Years

Location / Site	BANKFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL
Activity / Procedure	PHASE – Early Years – FULL RE--OPENING
Assessment date	19.08.20 – Updated October 20, January 21, March 2021, 28 th April 2021

Government guidance states for schools states:

“The safety of children and staff is our utmost priority.”

“The advice seeks to support staff working in schools, colleges and childcare settings, to deliver this approach in the safest way possible, focussing on measures they can put in place to help limit the risk of the virus spreading within education and childcare settings.”

“In education, childcare and social care settings, preventing the spread of the coronavirus involves dealing with direct transmissions (for instance, when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing) and indirect transmission (via touching contaminated surfaces.) A range of approaches and actions should be employed to do this.”

Government guidance for parents concerning re-opening of schools states:

“We have provided guidance and support to schools, colleges and child care settings on implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings to help them **reduce the risk of transmission as more children and young people return.**”

“Whilst such changes are likely to look different in each setting, as they will depend upon individual circumstances, they are all designed to minimise risks to children, staff and their families.

Schools and colleges continue to be best placed to make decisions about how to support and educate their pupils during this period. This will include:

- Consideration of the pupils’ mental health and well being
- Early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff.

In deciding to bring all children back to early years settings and schools, we need to take this into account. Schools should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures set above:

- Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- Frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- Regular cleaning of settings
- Minimising contact and mixing

...and the risk will be lowered.

<u>Identify hazard</u>	Record the hazard that could cause harm or injury – add appropriate detail about the type and location of hazards
Lack of social distancing in the classroom resulting in direct transmission of the virus.	
<u>Existing level of risk</u>	Consider current level of risk

HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE
<u>Control measures</u>		List your control measures required to reduce risk – add appropriate detail about the type and location of controls	
WE HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT CHILDREN OF THIS AGE WILL NOT ADHERE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING BETWEEN THEMSELVES OR ADULTS.			
These control measures are to encourage space between children where possible.			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Small class sizes in Reception (16) with 3 or members of staff means that staff will be able to support children with social distancing 2. Staff and children are to be kept within their year group ‘social bubble’ – i.e. the same adults stay with the same group of children throughout the day (and on subsequent days). Social bubbles stay in their own area are kept apart/do not mix. 3. Remove excess furniture and resources to increase space if space to do so– to cupboards if possible. If not possible, resources placed in a specified area and cordoned off 4. All desks and chairs will be cleaned and disinfected in between use. 5. Social distancing charter created for and with the children – including how many children playing with resources. It will include instructions how to line up, physical contact use of toilet, moving around the areas etc) 6. Charter re-visited and modelled many times a day and linked to school rules – lots of praise for adherence and reminders for non-compliance leading to possible sanctions. 7. Resources and activities planned to reduce shared contact and individual learning. 8. Children will be given their own pack of resources in a labelled, zipped bag to avoid cross contamination 9. Use of outdoor space – same charter for outdoors. 10. Bags and coats on pegs – children supported one at a time to hang up coats and place lunch box on identified table. 11. All classrooms and communal areas to be kept well ventilated at all times 12. All interventions including Thrive and Theraplay will be carried out in well ventilated rooms with no more than 4 children along with 1 metre social distancing where possible 			

Remaining level of risk	Consider level of risk following use of control measures		
HIGH	MEDIUM	<u>LOW</u>	NEGLIGIBLE

<u>Identify hazard</u>	Record the hazard that could cause harm or injury – add appropriate detail about the type and location of hazards		
Lack of social distancing using toilets and poor hygiene resulting in direct and indirect transmission of the virus.			
Existing level of risk	Consider current level of risk		
HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE
<u>Control measures</u>	List your control measures required to reduce risk – add appropriate detail about the type and location of controls		
WE HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT CHILDREN OF THIS AGE WILL NOT ADHERE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING BETWEEN THEMSELVES OR ADULTS.			
These control measures are to encourage space between children where possible.			

1. Only 2 children allowed in the toilets at any time.
2. Member of staff to take child to the toilet, wait outside and then escort them back to the area.
3. Staff will observe the children washing their hands correctly with soap for 20 seconds
4. Extra soap and hand towels ordered to ensure we do not run out – restocked regularly.
5. If a child has an accident, staff member will place on PPE equipment (apron, gloves, mask, visor) before cleaning the child and the area where the accident occurred

Remaining level of risk		Consider level of risk following use of control measures	
HIGH	MEDIUM	<u>LOW</u>	NEGLIGIBLE

<u>Identify hazard</u>	Record the hazard that could cause harm or injury – add appropriate detail about the type and location of hazards		
Lack of social distancing waiting to enter classroom in morning/exit the classroom in the afternoon resulting in direct transmission of the virus.			
Existing level of risk	Consider current level of risk		
HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE
<u>Control measures</u>	List your control measures required to reduce risk – add appropriate detail about the type and location of controls		
<p style="background-color: yellow;">WE HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT CHILDREN OF THIS AGE WILL NOT ADHERE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING BETWEEN THEMSELVES OR ADULTS.</p> <p>These control measures are to encourage space between children where possible.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Markers outside the classrooms and entrance for the children and parents to wait – at least 1m apart 2. Parents encouraged to wear face masks when on the school premises including drop off and pick up 3. Children will be expected to leave parent/carer and walk into school. If a child struggles to come into school independently, becomes distressed, clings to their parent and cannot be persuaded to come in to school, they will be asked to take the child back home and try again the next day. Staff MUST NOT carry child in and Parent/carer MUST NOT enter school unless requested by a member of staff. 4. Year R parents and children enter via the Reception door next to class 2. Nursery children enter via the nursery door. Nursery parents must leave their child at the main door unless their child is distressed and can then enter up to the cloak room area. They must not enter the main nursery unless they are attending a visit or have made an appointment 5. Instructions/expectations shared with parents and children via ParentMail/telephone calls, r.e. social distancing between families for drop off/collection 6. Signage for parents and children displayed outside the classroom 7. DHT and HT to be on duty to support if required 8. Staggered drop off and pick up times for different year groups (Reception 9am – 3pm) 9. Parents will be asked to place children in Velcro shoes as opposed to lace ups for easy removal and putting back on after PE activities 10. Parents will be asked to avoid clothes with buttons or that are difficult for the children to get on and off to reduce the amount of contact between adults and children. 11. Parents to remove coats for the children before they enter the building so they can be placed straight on the peg. If children are unable to put coats on themselves, they will carry them out 			

to their parent at the end of the day for them to put on			
Remaining level of risk		Consider level of risk following use of control measures	
HIGH	MEDIUM	<u>LOW</u>	NEGLIGIBLE

<u>Identify hazard</u>		Record the hazard that could cause harm or injury – add appropriate detail about the type and location of hazards	
Lack of social distancing during playtimes and lunchtimes resulting in direct transmission of the virus.			
Existing level of risk		Consider current level of risk	
HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE
<u>Control measures</u>		List your control measures required to reduce risk – add appropriate detail about the type and location of controls	
<p>WE HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT CHILDREN OF THIS AGE WILL NOT ADHERE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING BETWEEN THEMSELVES OR ADULTS.</p> <p>These control measures are to encourage space between children where possible.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staggered playtimes and allocated play areas for Nursery and Reception 2. Reduced playtime equipment – hard surfaces that can be easily cleaned. 3. Games discussed which encourage some distancing – ball passing, catch, hoola hooping 4. Staff supervision throughout – actively encouraging social distancing. 			
Remaining level of risk		Consider level of risk following use of control measures	
HIGH	<u>MEDIUM</u>	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE

<u>Identify hazard</u>		Record the hazard that could cause harm or injury – add appropriate detail about the type and location of hazards	
Lack of social distancing when eating lunch resulting in direct transmission of the virus			
Existing level of risk		Consider current level of risk	
HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE
<u>Control measures</u>		List your control measures required to reduce risk – add appropriate detail about the type and location of controls	
<p>WE HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT CHILDREN OF THIS AGE WILL NOT ADHERE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING BETWEEN THEMSELVES OR ADULTS.</p> <p>These control measures are to encourage space between children where possible.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children eat their lunch on the long tables in the hall separate from other bubbles. Children within the same indoor bubble are able to sit opposite each other in the dining hall. 2. Children will choose their meal beforehand and lunches will be served to them while they are seated. 3. Children to remain in their seats until all children in the bubble have finished and then they can be led back to their allocated area 			

4. Lunchtimes will be staggered to allow for cleaning of tables and chairs.			
Remaining level of risk		Consider level of risk following use of control measures	
HIGH	MEDIUM	<u>LOW</u>	NEGLIGIBLE

<u>Identify hazard</u>		Record the hazard that could cause harm or injury – add appropriate detail about the type and location of hazards	
Lack of social distancing in the corridors resulting in direct transmission of the virus.			
Existing level of risk		Consider current level of risk	
HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE
<u>Control measures</u>		List your control measures required to reduce risk – add appropriate detail about the type and location of controls	
<p>WE HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT CHILDREN OF THIS AGE WILL NOT ADHERE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING BETWEEN THEMSELVES OR ADULTS.</p> <p>These control measures are to encourage space between children where possible.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children stay in their areas at all times and will not mix or cross with any other year groups. They will access their allocated outdoor area from the classroom door at their allocated time. 2. Children will be taken down to lunch at their set time and this will not coincide with any other year group in their building 			

Remaining level of risk		Consider level of risk following use of control measures	
HIGH	MEDIUM	<u>LOW</u>	NEGLIGIBLE

<u>Identify hazard</u>		Record the hazard that could cause harm or injury – add appropriate detail about the type and location of hazards	
Contact of shared resources resulting in indirect transmission of the virus			
Existing level of risk		Consider current level of risk	
HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE
<u>Control measures</u>		List your control measures required to reduce risk – add appropriate detail about the type and location of controls	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean resources and workstations throughout the day and in between group activities 2. Tables, door handles and other surfaces cleaned with antibacterial wipes throughout the day and spray every night. 3. Resources on tables ready for activities and cleaned after use. 4. Children encouraged to wash hands before moving around areas and to use hand sanitiser in between activities as appropriate. 5. Outdoor resources provided for each group and time outdoors staggered to avoid overcrowding. 6. Excess soft toys and furnishings including bean bags removed from the classroom and areas before opening. 7. Reading books placed in individual children's trays and rotated each week, giving time for decontamination 8. Reading books to be changed each Monday. Used books to be placed in a box for 72 hours 			

where possible for decontamination and new books and activities placed in children's book bags			
Remaining level of risk		Consider level of risk following use of control measures	
HIGH	MEDIUM	<u>LOW</u>	NEGLIGIBLE

<u>Identify hazard</u>		Record the hazard that could cause harm or injury – add appropriate detail about the type and location of hazards	
Emotional distress of the children			
Existing level of risk		Consider current level of risk	
HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE
<u>Control measures</u>		List your control measures required to reduce risk – add appropriate detail about the type and location of controls	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Small class sizes (15 and 16) means that staff will be able to support children 2. Increased circle time and sharing sessions. 3. Use of sunshine circles, thrive and circle time activities to support all children 4. Thrive practitioner to have increased release time to support the wellbeing of children 5. Intensive COVID Recovery sessions with Headstart during the first week back to help children settle back in to school 6. Comfort given if child is distressed – If contact is essential, hand gel used immediately after. 			
Remaining level of risk		Consider level of risk following use of control measures	
HIGH	MEDIUM	<u>LOW</u>	NEGLIGIBLE

<u>Identify hazard</u>		Record the hazard that could cause harm or injury – add appropriate detail about the type and location of hazards	
Risk of spreading virus due to poor hygiene resulting in indirect transmission of the virus.			
Existing level of risk		Consider current level of risk	
HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE
<u>Control measures</u>		List your control measures required to reduce risk – add appropriate detail about the type and location of controls	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hand gel available to staff and children. (Hand gel order in large quantities). 2. Handwashing PHSE lessons, songs and rhymes. 3. Extra paper towels, soap dispensers and re-fills in each set of toilets 4. Children handwash on entry to school, before break, after break, before lunch, after lunch, leaving school, using the toilet and any time they cough or sneeze. 5. Washing hands posters placed in all washing areas 6. Reminders how to wash hands properly – videos and posters, discussions with staff 7. Procedure agreed for children to wash hands resulting in thorough hand washing. (Procedure will be: children as a group will be provided with soap, they will have an adult demonstrate how to wash/rub hands all over whilst singing a song. Children will then one at a time use the sinks to wash off the soap.) 			

Remaining level of risk		Consider level of risk following use of control measures	
HIGH	MEDIUM	<u>LOW</u>	NEGLIGIBLE

<u>Identify hazard</u>		Record the hazard that could cause harm or injury – add appropriate detail about the type and location of hazards	
Risk of infection due to lack of cleaning resulting in indirect transmission of the virus.			
Existing level of risk		Consider current level of risk	
HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE
<u>Control measures</u>		List your control measures required to reduce risk – add appropriate detail about the type and location of controls	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All surfaces, handles, toilets will be cleaned by cleaning staff. Shared equipment will be cleaned regularly throughout the day using disinfectant wipes and then disinfectant spray at the end of each day. 2. Some resources will be rotated and left to de-contaminate for 3 days after cleaning to reduce the risk of indirect transmission. (e.g. books) 3. Soft furnishings and soft / cloth toys will be removed from use in classrooms. 			
Remaining level of risk		Consider level of risk following use of control measures	
HIGH	MEDIUM	<u>LOW</u>	NEGLIGIBLE

<u>Identify hazard</u>		Record the hazard that could cause harm or injury – add appropriate detail about the type and location of hazards	
Risk of illness of vulnerable children and family members through direct and indirect transmission of the virus.			
Existing level of risk		Consider current level of risk	
HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE
<u>Control measures</u>		List your control measures required to reduce risk – add appropriate detail about the type and location of controls	
<p>Children who are clinically extremely vulnerable – those being shielded should not attend school</p> <p>Children living with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable should attend school as control measures will reduce the risk of infection</p> <p>Parents of children who are clinically vulnerable should seek medical advice concerning their child returning to school</p>			
Remaining level of risk		Consider level of risk following use of control measures	
HIGH	MEDIUM	<u>LOW</u>	NEGLIGIBLE

OVERALL level of risk		Consider level of risk following use of control measures	
HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE
Assessor's comments		Insert comments relevant to findings as appropriate	

Name of assessor	Signature of assessor	Date

Manager's comments	Insert comments relevant to assessment as appropriate
Due to the nature of the virus and the age of the children , the mitigating measures will reduce the risks from high to low overall with social distancing remaining medium risk	

Name of manager	Signature of manager	Date
Patsy Petrie		