

**COVID-19: Post Primary Schools & EOTAS Risk Assessment April 2022**

**SCHOOL NAME:**

**PRINCIPAL:**

**DATE:**

THE BASICS OF RISK ASSESSMENT

Introduction

Risk Assessment is a process that enables you and your staff to undertake activities in a safe manner. The risk assessment process guides you through an evaluation of what could cause injury or illness in your school; assists you in deciding how likely it is that someone could be harmed and how seriously; and finally enable you to take action to eliminate the hazard, or if this isn't possible, control the risk.

The Health and Safety Executive (www.hse.gov.uk) outlines Risk Assessment as a five step process. This excel workbook has been developed by the Education Authority to assist you with this five step process to enable you to design solutions which will permit your school to operate in a safe way, as we continue to live with the Covid-19 pandemic.

1. Identify Hazards
2. Assess the Risks
3. Control the Risks
4. Record your findings
5. Review the Controls

**GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS**

The generic risk assessments for schools contained within this guidance have been developed using the formulas below. It is unlikely that the generic assessments will be totally appropriate for each individual school which may have different circumstances. **They should therefore be modified by each school by applying the criteria below to the generic assessment, making that assessment specific to the school. By adding precautions specific to your school you should be able to reduce the likelihood score.**

For Example

The risk rating in the generic assessments is calculated using the formula:

**Likelihood X Severity**

e.g. something ‘unlikely’ to occur in your opinion (2) multiplied by severity rating of ‘significant’ (2) would result in a risk rating of 4 which is ‘Tolerable’ and only requires the control measures to be monitored and reviewed.

This calculation must be made with your school’s existing precautions (control measures) in place. If you do have all, or more, of the existing precautions in the generic assessment operating at your school then the risk factor may be lower.

If however, you have identified a particular hazard covered by a generic risk assessment and you do not have all, or any, of the existing precautions listed in place, then your risk factor will be higher and will require further action on your behalf to reduce the risk. This may involve adopting some, or all, of the ‘existing precautions’ listed and listing them as ‘additional precautions’ which are in effect further measures you need to implement to control the risk. You may also have other control measures in mind that are not listed and which are equally valid in controlling the risk. It is important that a person (or organisation e.g. EA) is identified as the person (body) responsible for the remedial measures. A feasible date for implementation should also be recorded and no action by this date should prompt a reminder to the responsible person (body).

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| When the ‘additional precautions’ are implemented and the risk assessment is reviewed then the ‘additional precautions’ become ‘existing precautions’ and the risk factor is recalculated.  |



RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX

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|  | **PROBABILITY/LIKELIHOOD** |
| **S****E****V****E****R****I****T****Y** | **X** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** |
| **1** | **1****Insignificant/ Trivial** | **2****Low/****Tolerable** | **3****Low/****Tolerable** | **4****Low/****Tolerable** |
| **2** | **2****Low/****Tolerable** | **4****Low/ Tolerable** | **6****Medium/ Substantial** | **8****Medium/ Substantial** |
| **3** | **3****Low/ Tolerable** | **6****Medium/ Substantial** | **9****Medium/ Substantial** | **12****High/ Intolerable** |
| **4** | **4****Low/ Tolerable** | **8****Medium/ Substantial** | **12****Hign/ Intolerable** | **16****High/ Intolerable** |

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| **Risk Level Description** | **Numerical Value** |
| High – Intolerable. Immediate action required. Activity should bestopped until control measures can be implemented to reduce risk | **12 ‐ 16** |
| Medium – Substantial. Activity can proceed, but with caution, ensuring control measures are maintained. Efforts should be madeto control/reduce the risk. | **6 ‐ 9** |
| Low – Tolerable. Activity can proceed. Control measures must be monitored and reviewed as required to ensure they remain suitableand sufficient. | **2 ‐ 4** |
| Insignificant – Trivial. Monitor activity/task for future changes that would increase the risk | **1** |

DYNAMIC RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk assessment is a dynamic rather than static process. Once you have carried out the paper based risk assessments there remains the need to apply this thinking to everything you and your staff do. Dynamic Risk Assessment is defined as "The continuous process of identifying hazards, assessing risk, taking action to eliminate or reduce risk, monitoring and reviewing, in the rapidly changing circumstances of an operational incident."

Dynamic risk assessments are frequently carried out by the emergency services and are used when you are faced with a dynamic or fast moving set of circumstances that are not fully covered by your written risk assessments at that time. The process is:

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| **Identify the hazard** |
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| **Eliminate and reduce the risks by changing original actions** |
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| **Assess the risk to self and others** |
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| **Monitor and Review Outcome** |
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After the event, it if is foreseeable that the risk will occur again in the future, record the actions taken and add them to the written risk assessments so that others can apply the same response.

**Is a dynamic risk assessment needed in all circumstances? - Sometimes it is enough just to apply common sense!**



**Implementing a Risk Assessed Approach to Safe Schools**

**START OF DAY PROCEDURES**

The Start of Day phase requires you to evaluate the risks to your staff, Students and their parents as they arrive at your school each morning. You will be asked to reflect on how staff will arrive and circulate in the building; how car/bus drop offs will work and how students will then enter and circulate in your building. Again at this point in time not all of the information you feel you need may be available and so you will need to use planning assumptions that will be refined as facts clarify.

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| **Completed by:**  |  | **Date:**  |  | **Review Date**:  | Ongoing |

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| INSERT SCHOOL NAME HERE |
| Morning Arrival of Staff and Students |
| **Identified Hazard** | **To Whom** | **Severity** | **Likelihood** | **Risk** |
| As staff, students and delivery drivers arrive to the school building or EOTAS centre they will spread/contract the virus through the school and into the wider community due to a lack of social distancing measures. | Students | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Staff | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| Parents & Community | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Delivery Drivers | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| **Existing Precautions** | **Additional Precautions** | **Who** | **When** |
| Staggered arrival and departure times for Students and staff to minimise gatherings in any location. | *Please add any additional precautions you believe are required to mitigate the risk further here.* | *If additional precautions are required, please identify who is responsible for implementing them.* | *If additional precautions are required, please identify by when. e.g. date or ASAP.* |
| Communication sent to all parents/carers that should their child appear unwell or display any of the symptoms of Covid-19 as advised by the PHA that they do not attend school. .<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-overview-and-advice>  |  |  |  |
| Arrival of students in the morning is structured to maintain social distancing .Students are received into school/centre by a member of staff, maintaining social distancing protocols. |  |  |  |
| All staff/students to wash their hands before coming to school/centre, before going home, during day and when they get home. |  |  |  |
| Hand sanitiser provided at all entrance and exit points, anyone accessing the building must wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser.  |  |  |  |
| It may be necessary to introduce one-way systems for arrival/departure or designate areas or entrances for the arrival of particular year groups. If possible access classrooms directly from the external classroom doors. Consideration to be given to the risk of finger entrapment and how this risk can be mitigated. Refer to <https://www.eani.org.uk/publications/health-safety/guidance-on-finger-entrapment-in-educational-establishments>  |  |  |  |
| INSERT SCHOOL NAME HERE |
| Morning Arrival of Staff and Students |
| **Existing Precautions** | **Additional Precautions** | **Who** | **When** |
| Information sent to parents/carers that they cannot gather at entrance gates or doors, or enter the school building or centre (unless they have a pre-arranged appointment, which should be conducted safely, observing social distancing). |  |  |  |
| Inform parents/carers that if a student needs to be accompanied to the educational setting or centre, only one parent/carer should attend. |  |  |  |
| Particular consideration should be given to the arrangements for parents/carers of students with complex needs or disabilities, who may normally drop off a student within the school building or EOTAS centre. |  |  |  |
| Upon arrival to school or centre all staff should proceed to their designated classroom. |  |  |  |
| Upon arrival to school all students should proceed to their designated classroom. |  |  |  |
| The disembarkation on school grounds of students arriving on school buses or via Translink services should be supervised by a member of school staff to ensure that social distancing protocols are maintained. Members of staff fulfilling this role should wear a Hi-Vis vest. It is mandatory for all post primary school students to wear a face covering on public transport, at drop off/pick up areas and in school, unless an exemption applies. |  |  |  |
| If possible try to arrange delivery times with companies, when this is not possible all deliveries to be directed to a central point. |  |  |  |

**Implementing a Risk Assessed Approach to Safe Schools**

**DURING THE SCHOOL DAY**

**You will need to evaluate the risks to your staff and students as they move around your school and participate in classes and other activities during the school day. You will be asked to reflect on how your school day will need to adapt to the current public health agency advice and decide on changes that you are going to implement. Again at this point in time not all of the information you feel you need may be available and so you will need to use planning assumptions that will be refined as facts clarify.**

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| INSERT SCHOOL NAME HERE |
| Circulating in the School Building |
| **Identified Hazard** | **To Whom** | **Severity** | **Likelihood** | **Risk** |
| The Covid-19 virus will spread through the school or EOTAS centre and into the wider community due to a lack of social distancing measures. | Students | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Staff | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| Parents & Community | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Delivery Drivers & Visitors to School | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| **Existing Precautions** | **Additional Precautions** | **Who** | **When** |
| Reorganise classrooms and other learning environments maintaining social distancing space where possible, (strict social distancing requirements between all students will be relaxed but will remain in place between adults (at least 2m). Adults are expected to maintain at least 2m from students also, but it is accepted that this is not always possible. Remove any unnecessary equipment at this time and seek appropriate storage for this equipment. Displays, unnecessary cupboards and soft furnishings. This is designed to enable successful and effective cleaning of all surfaces.  | *Please add any additional precautions you believe are required to mitigate the risk further here.* | *If additional precautions are required, please identify who is responsible for implementing them.* | *If additional precautions are required, please identify by when. e.g. date or ASAP.* |
| In circumstances in which it may not be possible or appropriate for social distancing to be applied to some students who require additional support needs, e.g. where close contact with staff is necessary to their wellbeing. In such circumstances, bespoke approaches should be determined by individual or group risk assessments, with full regard to the best interests of students, young people and staff. Staff may wear a face covering in these circumstances, should they chose to do so. |  |  |  |
| Students and staff wash their hands with soap and water or make use of hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day. |  |  |  |
| Teachers to be issued with their own hand sanitiser, staff encouraged to protect their skin by applying emollient cream regularly. |  |  |  |
| All classrooms provided with basic cleaning kit and stored in appropriate safe location.  |  |  |  |
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| INSERT SCHOOL NAME HERE |
| Circulating in the School Building |
| **Existing Precautions** | **Additional Precautions** | **Who** | **When** |
| Desks to be cleaned down at regular intervals throughout the school day, using designated cleaning substances which are proven to be effective against the spread of Covid-19. |  |  |  |
| Students are expected to have their own equipment and this should not be shared with others. |  |  |  |
| Medication e.g. epipens should be brought into school on the first day back, these should be kept in school from that point in a sealed bag and in a secure location. |  |  |  |
| Where possible, all spaces should be well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows). Appropriate H&S protocols should be adhered to. |  |  |  |
| Ensure CO2 monitors, where fitted, are monitored regularly throughout the day. Prolonged readings in the red is an indication that the room needs to be ventilated by opening windows or by mechanical ventilation.  |  |  |  |
| If a work experience program is operational, evaluate all cases individually in light of Covid-19. All other normal procedures remain a requirement as usual.  |  |  |  |
| If teachers collect individual students work for marking, this should be marked within the classroom, they should apply good hand washing procedures or use hand sanitiser at regular intervals and should be discouraged from touching their face after handling students books. The use of gloves is not recommended as the misuse or removal of gloves incorrectly, could inadvertently cause contamination. Consider the use of other forms of feedback techniques such as verbal feedback, whole class feedback, self-assessment or comments written onto post-it notes etc.  |  |  |  |
| Deliveries to be handed over at main entrance door/office or left outside the door. Staff taking in deliveries to wash hands immediately after handling anything that has come in to school. Contractors to be admitted on site by appointment only – contractors not to be in areas where children or staff are. One member of staff to sign contractors in and out show them to the work area with social distancing to be maintained at all times. Contractors to use hand sanitiser on entry. |  |  |  |
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| INSERT SCHOOL NAME HERE |
| Suspected or Confirmed Case of Covid-19 in School |
| **Identified Hazard** | **To Whom** | **Severity** | **Likelihood** | **Risk** |
| Suspected or confirmed case in staff member or student or staff with a family connected to the learning hub.  | Student | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Staff | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| Parents & Community | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Delivery Drivers & visitors to School | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| **Existing Precautions** | **Additional Precautions** | **Who** | **When** |
| Follow PHA guidance and consult PHA website for most up to date guidance. | *Please add any additional precautions you believe are required to mitigate the risk further here.* | *If additional precautions are required, please identify who is responsible for implementing them.* | *If additional precautions are required, please identify by when. e.g. date or ASAP.* |
| Normal system of work in relation to cleaning should be maintained with particular attention to high contact areas, toilets, door handles, telephones, grab rails. |  |  |  |
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| INSERT SCHOOL NAME HERE |
| Teaching Staff Shortages due to Covid-19 |
| **Identified Hazard** | **To Whom** | **Severity** | **Likelihood** | **Risk** |
| A shortage of teaching staff and/or a reduction in leadership capacity due to Covid-19.  | Students | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| Staff | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| Parents & Community | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| **Existing Precautions** | **Additional Precautions** | **Who** | **When** |
| Use NISTR register to employ substitute teachers. | *Please add any additional precautions you believe are required to mitigate the risk further here.* | *If additional precautions are required, please identify who is responsible for implementing them.* | *If additional precautions are required, please identify by when. e.g. date or ASAP.* |
| Text alert service to parents/carers to notify them of any exceptional closures due to insufficient staff cover. |  |  |  |
| Notify DE and school managing authority in the event that an exceptional closure may be necessary. |  |  |  |
| Face to face meetings within school must comply fully with current health advice on social distancing and ventilation. Where possible use digital platforms to conduct any meetings, such as Conference calls, Zoom, Microsoft Teams etc. |  |  |  |

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| INSERT SCHOOL NAME HERE |
| Support Staff Shortages due to Covid-19 |
| **Identified Hazard** | **To Whom** | **Severity** | **Likelihood** | **Risk** |
| Shortage of support service staff such as• Building Supervisor/Cleaning• Admin Staff• Learning SupportResulting in non-delivery of essential services | Students | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| Staff | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| Parents & Community | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| **Existing Precautions** | **Additional Precautions** | **Who** | **When** |
| Contact EA for cover arrangements where appropriate | *Please add any additional precautions you believe are required to mitigate the risk further here.* | *If additional precautions are required, please identify who is responsible for implementing them.* | *If additional precautions are required, please identify by when. e.g. date or ASAP.* |
| Classroom Assistants to provide temporary cover for admin. |  |  |  |
| Reassign support staff to core health & safety functions within the school. |  |  |  |
| Text alert service to parents/carers to notify them of any exceptional closures due to insufficient staff cover. |  |  |  |

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| INSERT SCHOOL NAME HERE |
| Student Contact Activities |
| **Identified Hazard** | **To Whom** | **Severity** | **Likelihood** | **Risk** |
| That contact activities (including contact with resources/tools) will act as an infection route. | Students | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Staff | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Parents & Community | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| **Existing Precautions** | **Additional Precautions** | **Who** | **When** |
| Daily disinfecting equipment which students are in regular contact with. | *Please add any additional precautions you believe are required to mitigate the risk further here.* | *If additional precautions are required, please identify who is responsible for implementing them.* | *If additional precautions are required, please identify by when. e.g. date or ASAP.* |
| Each student to be assigned their own desk and equipment..  |  |  |  |
| There should be routine cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched objects and surfaces. Desk surfaces, chairs, doors, light switches, banisters, sinks and toilets will be cleaned more regularly. |  |  |  |
| Cleaning of the staff areas should be considered as part of the overall cleaning strategy. Staff should use their own cup/cutlery and ensure these are cleaned straight after use. |  |  |  |

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| INSERT SCHOOL NAME HERE |
| Risk of Fire and Building Evacuation Procedures |
| **Identified Hazard** | **To Whom** | **Severity** | **Likelihood** | **Risk** |
| The risk of fire remains, however, there is a need to ensure that evacuation and assembly procedures comply with current PHA guidance as far as possible. | Students | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Staff | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Parents & Community | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| **Existing Precautions** | **Additional Precautions** | **Who** | **When** |
| Revisit advice on what to do if you discover a fire as this has not changed. Staff and students should always exit the building by the nearest available exit. The use of one way systems which may have been created to avoid interaction between classes during Covid-19 do not apply in the event of a fire. | *Please add any additional precautions you believe are required to mitigate the risk further here.* | *If additional precautions are required, please identify who is responsible for implementing them.* | *If additional precautions are required, please identify by when. e.g. date or ASAP.* |
| Routine weekly testing of the fire alarm system within the school building should continue as normal. Any faults to be logged to EA Maintenance. |  |  |  |
| Fire escape routes need to be reviewed and kept clear at all times. |  |  |  |
| Daily cleaning of bins, to avoid build-up of combustibles. |  |  |  |
| Staff who are not familiar with the building should be made aware, on their first day of attendance, of actions to be taken in the event of a fire, emergency escapes routes and the position of the assembly point. |  |  |  |
| Register kept of all persons present in the building. |  |  |  |
| Fire Extinguishers must not be used to prop open doors, they must remain in situ.  |  |  |  |
| Evacuation arrangements for students with complex needs or disabilities should be reviewed in light of any changes. |  |  |  |
| Stocks of highly flammable hand sanitiser (those containing alcohol) should be stored in a flame resistant cupboard with a capacity of no more than 50 litres. Larger schools, who require holdings of hand sanitiser greater than 50 litres, should contact their EA Fire Safety Officer for advice on safe storage. Where possible schools should hold stock of no more than 50 litres at any one time. Any significant spillage of hand sanitiser should be dealt with immediately by removing all sources of ignition, ventilating the area and diluting the spill with water. |  |  |  |
| Empty hand sanitiser containers should be disposed of by rinsing the container with large quantities of cold water. Empty containers can then be recycled or disposed of in general waste.  |  |  |  |
| Carry out a fire drill. Remembering to maintain social distancing whilst vacating the building and at assembly points, you may need to spread out the assembly points to maintain social distancing. |  |  |  |

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| INSERT SCHOOL NAME HERE |
| **Provision of First Aid & Intimate Care** |
| **Identified Hazard** | **To Whom** | **Severity** | **Likelihood** | **Risk** |
| Infection could be spread between adults and children during the provision of First Aid & Intimate Care (including medication) as social distancing is not possible. | Students | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Staff | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| **Existing Precautions** | **Additional Precautions** | **Who** | **When** |
| Designated members of staff are trained in First Aid at Work or Emergency First Aid. Reference should be made to Health and Safety Manual for Principals and Governors the recommended guidance on number of first aiders required within your school. <https://www.eani.org.uk/school-management/health-safety/manual-for-principals-and-governors> In 'supervised learning' a specific first aid risk assessment should be carried out. Consideration should be given if staff or students have any individual health conditions which may necessitate the presence of a trained first aider within the school. If this is not required it may be appropriate to use appointed persons. See first aid guidance at the link above for the definition of an appointed person. | *Please add any additional precautions you believe are required to mitigate the risk further here.* | *If additional precautions are required, please identify who is responsible for implementing them.* | *If additional precautions are required, please identify by when. e.g. date or ASAP.* |
| Where it is not possible to maintain a 2 metre or more distance away from an individual, disposable gloves, face mask and a disposable plastic apron are recommended. Disposable gloves should be worn if physical contact is likely to be made with potentially contaminated areas or items. Additional information on the administration of CPR during Covid-19 is available on the EA Website <https://www.eani.org.uk/education-restart> under the Health and Safety FAQ's. |  |  |  |
| The use of a fluid repellent surgical face mask is recommended and additional use of disposable eye protection (such as face visor or goggles) should be risk assessed when there is an anticipated risk of contamination with splashes, droplets of blood or body fluids. |  |  |  |
| When using a fluid repellent surgical face mask, you should mould the metal strap of the mask over the bridge of the nose and make sure the mask fits snugly under the chin, around or across any facial hair if present. |  |  |  |
| Clean your hands thoroughly with soap and water or hand sanitiser before putting on and after taking off PPE. In all circumstances where some form of PPE is used, the safe removal of the PPE is a critical consideration to avoid self-contamination. |  |  |  |
| Staggering of break and lunch times so limited number of students are in the playground at any one time to reduce the need for first aid. |  |  |  |
| Follow all normal protocols for first aid and intimate care and consider enhancements to provide extra protection for staff and students. |  |  |  |
| PPE appropriate to the need should be worn by adults providing first aid and intimate care to children or to other adults. Additional training will be necessary for Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGP's) for students who require these procedures. |  |  |  |
| Consider the PPE needs and provide packs for adults assisting children with medication and intimate care. (This may include aprons, visors and masks in addition to the gloves normally worn). |  |  |  |
| Follow all normal protocols for first aid and intimate care and consider enhancements to provide extra protection for staff and students. |  |  |  |
| PPE appropriate to the need should be worn by adults providing first aid and intimate care to children or to other adults. |  |  |  |

**Implementing a Risk Assessed Approach to Safe Schools**

**END OF DAY PROCEDURES**

**The End of Day phase requires you to evaluate the risks to your staff, students and their parents as they leave your school each afternoon. You will be asked to reflect on how students will circulate and leave your building and how bus lines/car pick-ups will work. You will also need to review how staff will circulate and leave the building. Again at this point in time not all of the information you feel you need may be available and so you will need to use planning assumptions that will be refined as facts clarify.**

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| INSERT SCHOOL NAME HERE |
| Afternoon Departure of Staff and Students |
| **Identified Hazard** | **To Whom** | **Severity** | **Likelihood** | **Risk** |
| As staff and students leave from the school building or EOTAS centre they will spread/contract the virus through the school and into the wider community due to a lack of social distancing measures. | Students | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Staff | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| Parents & Community | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| **Existing Precautions** | **Additional Precautions** | **Who** | **When** |
| Staggered arrival and departure times for students and staff to minimise gatherings in any location. | *Please add any additional precautions you believe are required to mitigate the risk further here.* | *If additional precautions are required, please identify who is responsible for implementing them.* | *If additional precautions are required, please identify by when. e.g. date or ASAP.* |
| Students leaving in the afternoon is structured to maintain social distancing where possible. Students who are collected by parent/carer from a member of staff, need to maintain social distancing protocols. Single entry and exit may require designated pick-up point outside of school grounds; if possible could an alternative entrance/exit be made available for staff; liaise with other schools that are in close proximity to ensure social distancing is maintained. |  |  |  |
| Staggered departure times for staff to minimise gatherings in any location. E.g. Staffroom, office areas, foyer. This may also include displaying maximum numbers for any given location. |  |  |  |
| Schools may need to designate areas where students can wait for transport home, e.g. supervised in a classroom. |  |  |  |
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