Weatherhead High School
A high performing academy providing excellence for all

WEATHERHEAD HIGH SCHOOL OPENING SEPTEMBER 2020

RISK ASSESSMENT - PART A

The advice within this document is primarily taken from:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools
This Risk Assessment is a flexible and fluid document, it will be subject to amendment after consultation with staff, Trustees and Governors, Unions and the Local Authority.

PART A - Introduction – Notes to introduce the detailed Risk Assessment (see separate document)
Reviewed and updated 29/09/20
Reviewed and updated 07/01/21

	NOTES
1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school	We will ensure that pupils, staff and other adults do not come into the school if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or have tested positive in the last 7 days, and ensuring anyone developing those symptoms during the school day is sent home, these are essential actions to reduce the risk in schools and further drive down transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). Weatherhead High School will follow this process and ensure that all staff are aware of it. There are new guidelines now in operation from Public Health. A call is made by the school and advice is given in respect of individual circumstances – it is evident that this situation and the advice provided changes as the knowledge of the virus increases. The school will always act on the guidance from Public Health England. Clear communication has been provided to staff, pupils and families that they must self-isolate at home and **not visit the school if**: ● You have any symptoms of coronavirus (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) ● You're waiting for a coronavirus test result ● You've tested positive for coronavirus – (this means you have coronavirus) ● You live with someone who has symptoms, is waiting for a test result or has tested positive ● Someone in your support bubble has symptoms, is waiting for a test result or has tested positive ● If you're told by NHS Test and Trace that you've been in contact with a person with coronavirus If you have symptoms of coronavirus, you'll usually need to self-isolate for at least 10 days.

	If you live with someone who has symptoms, you'll usually need to self-isolate for 10 days. If someone in your support bubble has symptoms, you'll usually need to self-isolate for 10 days. We will update/amend the Risk Assessment as advice changes If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 10 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms. If a student is awaiting collection, they will be moved, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age and needs of the child, with appropriate adult supervision if required. A window will be opened for ventilation. If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else. PPE (disposable, gloves, apron and fluid resistant surgical mask, plus eye protection if a risk of splashing/respiratory droplet contamination to face) will be worn by staff caring for the student while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. More information on PPE use can be found in the safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings, including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) guidance. As is usual practice, in an emergency, call 999 if someone is seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Anyone with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms should not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital. If they require medical support or advice, they should contact NHS 111 who will respond to their concern accordingly. Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms and any pupils who have been in close contact with them do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves (in which case, they should

	arrange a test) or if the symptomatic person subsequently tests positive (see below) or they have been requested to do so by NHS Test & Trace. Everyone must wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and running water or use hand sanitiser after any contact with someone who is unwell. The area around the person with symptoms must be cleaned with normal household disinfectant after they have left to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance. Public Health England is clear that routinely taking the temperature of pupils is not recommended as this is an unreliable method for identifying coronavirus (COVID-19). We will not be taking the temperature of pupils on a routine basis, but may well test if a student presents as ill.
2. Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual	Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an easy virus to kill when it is on skin. This can be done with liquid soap and running water or hand sanitiser. Weatherhead will ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly, including when they arrive at their bubble, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating. Regular and thorough hand cleaning is going to be needed for the foreseeable future. ● Once students are in the school building in the morning, cleaning staff will ensure all handrails and doors are cleaned. ● The school will have hand sanitiser 'stations' available throughout the building (the sanitiser will contain a minimum content of 60% alcohol). The routine will be as follows:- ● Use hand sanitiser on arrival at classrooms ● Where possible and within the resources available, wipe tables down on leaving classrooms. ● The routines will be clearly explained to students and reviewed frequently. There will be different arrangements for KS3 and KS4/KS5, these arrangements will take account of the greater movement of Year Group in KS4/5. ● Routines will be built into school culture.

3. Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach Maintaining frequent hand washing Provision of handwashing facilities in the workplace.	• Liquid soap and hot water will be available in every toilet • Hand sanitiser stations will be located throughout the building, their replenishment will be part of school routines • Lidded bins have been purchased and are located in classrooms. Procedures are in place for the disposal of waste – this includes double bagging when emptying • There will be a good supply of disposable tissues to implement the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach in each classroom and enough to top-up regularly • The school will ensure paper towels for hand drying are available or hand dryers are functioning correctly. The school decided initially, to strongly advise the use of face coverings when students are moving between lessons on the corridor. This is now school policy and students have their own face masks – on occasions when students have not got a face covering, then the school has an ample supply available. The students are only using public spaces for a very limited time for the purpose of refreshment and consequently, it is inappropriate to wear a face covering on these occasions.

4. Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and disinfectants	• Enhanced cleaning will follow the guidance for cleaning as provided by Public Health England
	• The cleaning schedule will ensure that enhancements include:-
	  ❖ More frequent cleaning of rooms, especially those rooms shared by different Groups
	  ❖ Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned more often than normal – this will include areas such as stairwells, door handles and lifts
	  ❖ The solutions used by cleaners will be in line with recommendations eg Chlor Clean
	  ❖ We will, where possible, assign toilet blocks for Year Groups, but this is not mandatory and may not be possible on all occasions. However, toilets will be cleaned regularly and students will be directed to clean hands thoroughly after using the facilities
	
	There are doubly enhanced routines to deal with cleaning an area where someone with suspected/confirmed Covid-19 has been present. These routines include:-
	• Wearing of disposable gloves and aprons for cleaning
	• Used equipment will be double-bagged, stored for 72 hours and thrown away in regular rubbish

	• Additional PPE will be used to protect the cleaner's eyes, mouth and nose where there is visible contamination with body fluids
5. Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible	The school will minimise contacts and mixing between students as this reduces transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). Maintaining distance will be encouraged at all times and lines on the corridors will assist. Staff will maintain distance in classrooms to minimise contact with students. Staff will maintain distance with colleagues and appropriate work preparation areas and staff rest rooms will be designated to facilitate distancing. There will be bespoke arrangements for different Key Stages in relation to lunch provision e.g. packed lunches to be taken in bubble-based Form Rooms at KS3. Different arrangements apply for other Year Groups and will be modified as the term progresses. The overarching principle to apply is reducing the number of contacts between students and staff. This will be achieved through keeping groups separate (in 'bubbles') and through maintaining distance between individuals. By maintaining distinct groups or 'bubbles' that do not mix makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate, and keep that number as small as possible. It is recognised, however, that the use of small groups restricts the normal operation of schools and presents both educational and logistical challenges, including the cleaning and use of shared spaces.
6. Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)	Staff will be expected to wear face visors at all times, save when working alone. Masks will also be provided if requested. Wearing of face visors is mandatory, masks are optional. Students will not be expected to wear PPE, but if any choose to do so, then this is acceptable. There will be some guidance provided regarding wearing and disposal.

	Enhanced PPE will be worn by staff attending to any student who becomes ill with Covid-19 symptoms while at school.
7. Learning in the event of School closure	If, in the event a new coronavirus outbreak occurs, Weatherhead may be advised to temporarily close some or all of its operation. We have developed a comprehensive Remote Education provision and this will be in operation should face-to-face not be possible. We continue to identify the barriers students have in relation to IT support for online learning and have implemented a comprehensive support plan. All students in Years 7-13 now have a device/internet access in which to access online learning from home. There are detailed notes of our Remote Education provision in the curriculum section of the website. A national lockdown was enforced from 05/01/2021 whereby schools were directed to close except for emergency provision for students identified as vulnerable and children of key workers, in line with government guidance. All students in Years 7-13 will access online Remote Education, including delivery of 'live lessons'. All teaching staff will work from home to deliver the Remote Education package, and staff will support a school rota to manage on site operations and the supervision of students attending the school during this time. Part B of this Risk Assessment has been updated to reflect the partial school opening status. Current indications suggest the school closures will last at least until 22/02/2021.
8. Catch-up provision	Once the school is operational and we are able to assess the educational and health related needs of students, catch-up and support programmes will be put in place.
9. Community Testing	As of Monday 11th January, 4 Wirral community testing centres will be repurposed to prioritse key workers. An appointment system will be implemented for key workers to access a rapid Lateral Flow Test (LFT). The 4 sites are:

	• Greasby Library • The Floral Pavilion, New Brighton • Eastham Library • Birkenhead Market Weatherhead will encourage staff members who are attending school to use this facility for regular LFT to help minimise the transmission of the virus (at least once per week as per guidance).
Resources	• Posters (for example, to encourage consistency on hygiene and keeping to own group) • Liquid soap for sinks, and where there is no sink nearby, hand sanitiser (minimum 60% alcohol) in rooms/learning environments • Disposable paper towels • Cleaning products (standard products such as detergent and bleach, could consider combined detergent/disinfectant for ease of use) • Lidded bins (with foot pedal operation where possible) • Tape for cordoning off areas and marking floor • Portable heaters in designated areas used for the emergency provision for key worker children and vulnerable students. Staff and students are adapting to the new circumstances. Teachers are getting to know their students and are making an assessment of their learning needs. At the same time, we are now experiencing disruption to learning as a consequence of student and staff infections/isolations as a consequence of Covid. It is expected that by October half term the school will be better placed to make some generic summary analysis of the magnitude of the lost learning as a consequence of the school being closed for such a significant amount of time.