



**KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL,  
SOUTHAMPTON**

## **Pandemic Policy**

<b>Rationale:</b>	A pandemic is a global disease outbreak. Pandemics can occur when a new virus emerges for which people have little or no immunity, and for which there is no vaccine. The disease spreads easily from person to person, causes serious illness and can sweep across the country in which it originates and around the world in a very short time.
<b>Owner:</b>	Senior Deputy Head
<b>Endorsed by Governing Board:</b>	10 June 2021 (next review March 2024)
<b>Revised:</b>	January 2021
<b>Date of next full review:</b>	January 2024
<b>Reviewed:</b>	Three Yearly
<b>Date(s) of interim amendments:</b>	n/a
<b>Category:</b>	Guidance
<b>Circulation and publication:</b>	Public/ Website

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The School shall follow all the appropriate recommendations from worldwide health organisations, the Government, the Chief Medical Officer) and the Local Health Authority.

If there is the threat of a pandemic the Critical Incident Management Team will hold regular reviews of the situation and research and implement preventative action as recommended by official bodies. The Critical Incident Management Team (CIMT) will consist of: Members of SLT, Senior School Nurse and other members of staff, as appropriate. The CIMT would have similar lines of communication as in the CIMT plan.

If a pandemic develops then we shall ensure that all members of our School community are kept informed as appropriate, with a particular emphasis on the communication to parents and employees through the Bulletin, website, e-mail and parent portal so that advice is prompt and easily accessible. We will update our response to the situation regularly, in line with the emerging situation.

We will provide, so far as is possible in what is bound to be a very difficult situation, a basic level of education for students, particularly those with public examinations in prospect. The principal means will be through our website and related material. All learning materials will be made available to students. Teaching may continue remotely through a platform such as Zoom.

Throughout the duration of a pandemic the Government advice will be followed and regularly updated risk assessments will be made available to staff and parents. The alert levels below are based on the Government's response to the 2020/21 Coronavirus pandemic.

## **Alert Level 1 Green: Global concerns but virus not known to be present in the UK**

- SLT and the Senior School Nurse meet to discuss the situation
- Risk assessments are reviewed for each forthcoming trip abroad. Trips abroad may not go ahead if there is undue risk.
- Critical Incident Management Team formed, to include the Senior School Nurse, and put on standby.

## **Alert Level 2 : Virus in the UK, but the number of cases and transmission is low**

- Critical Incident Management Team meets.
- Protection measures are re-enforced: some travel and some activities may be cancelled after review.
- Information is communicated to all parents and employees.
- Response plans are elaborated in conjunction with Government and DfE advice.
- More preventive guidelines are set up for Trips and Visits.
- Risk assessments are reviewed for each forthcoming activity. Trips may not go ahead if there is undue risk.
- The most stringent recommendations of official bodies are applied.
- Catering contractors' procedures are reviewed as appropriate.
- All teaching staff and pupils trained in using the online teaching resource.
- HODs made aware that prepared material may be needed online if the situation develops.

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- The nursing team promotes good respiratory and hand hygiene amongst staff and students, to include hand washing and disposal of tissues.
- Social distancing may be required.

## **Alert Level 3 Yellow: Virus is in general circulation**

- Trips and Visits likely to be cancelled.
- Regular information meetings held for staff.
- School remains open unless specific quarantine for endemic cases in school proximity.
- Catering contractors' procedures are reviewed as appropriate.
- Assessments made as to whether visitors to the School or staff who have been abroad are allowed on site.
- Staff advised not to travel to these areas and asked to inform the Senior Nurse if they have been to or had contact with individuals from the infected areas.
- Hygiene message is reinforced. Wash hands regularly and use of anti-bacterial hand gel is strongly encouraged.
- Tissues and anti-bacterial cleaning materials are made available to staff for classrooms and the appropriate disposal of tissues is considered.
- Cleaning regime to be reviewed including the regular cleaning of hard surfaces, such as door handles and desks.
- Vaccination is encouraged if this is Government policy.
- Social distancing highly likely.

## **Alert Level 4 Orange: Transmission is high or rising exponentially in the UK.**

- School may be closed. Teaching will immediately move online and the points under Level 5 will be introduced.
- If the School remains open the Nursing team will monitor levels of illness in the School.

## **Alert Level 5 Red: Material risk of healthcare services being overwhelmed.**

- Schools likely to be instructed to close.
- Teaching will immediately move online.
- A tutor period will take place at least once per week.
- A co-curricular offer will be arranged.
- Care for critical worker pupils will be arranged in School.
- Regular communication by e-mail, parent portal, website and the Bulletin.