



COVID-19

Policy Override- to be reviewed/renewed 31st August 2020

The staff and governors at Peartree Way Nursery School recognise that during the Covid – 19 pandemic, some policies and protocols may not be appropriate to the needs of staff and pupils.

In line with the government's own approach we have produced this 'override' document which clarifies the need to deviate from policy at times in order to function in the current restrictions/requirements. This document is designed to cover the main areas but includes the caveat that some policies will need to be adapted as we move through this pandemic. As such, this does not cover all changes that may be necessary but supersedes other policies as needed.

Safeguarding

There will be at least one DSP on site each day. In the event of illness/isolation etc. another DSP will step in to support or be available on the phone. If this is still difficult then the school should consult the Consultation Hub **0300 123 4043**

Door security- guidelines on the opening of doors and windows for ventilation. As there is a requirement to keep rooms well ventilated and to maximise outdoor space, we will allow doors and windows to be left open on the condition that the perimeter is secure. Gates will be manned during the staggered 'drop off' and 'pick up' times and will then be secured.

Uniform

Good practice for schools is that children and staff wear fresh clothes each day and wash the clothes worn at school. For this reason, and because we will try and use outdoor spaces, staff and pupils are expected to wear comfortable clothing. If clothing is deemed to be inappropriate or not cleaned, then we will need to contact families or speak to staff.

As we will use outdoor spaces then we ask that parents administer sunscreen which will be effective all day.

Health and Safety

We aim to follow the Health and Safety policy and continue to do the necessary routine checks and procedures.

We will ensure that the perimeter is checked daily to ensure that it meets requirements. As staff will be entering the school via the church gate, this will be kept locked with the latch and then the padlock secured once all staff are in. All staff are aware of the code for this padlock as the gate is used during fire evacuation drills..

Food hygiene- extra measures will be in place to ensure that contact 'cross- contamination' between groups/bubbles of children is avoided. This involves changing gloves, not handling used plates with bare hands, reducing contact with the communal kitchen area. SLT will be providing snack for the week which will be stored in a fridge within each bubble and then shared with the children during the session. Clear rules on handwashing will be adhered to prior to the preparation and eating of snacks.

PPE and First aid- There will be a trained Paediatric First Aider in every bubble. The government has decided that PPE is not required for schools unless completing personal care or supporting a poorly child. Staff choosing to wear masks may do so as a matter of choice but it is not recommended. It does require us to risk assess certain close contacts and, as such, PPE will be used for delivering close contact first aid. In the event of small bumps and scrapes the staff will take a low contact approach and may direct a child to wipe a scratch. Staff will keep a first aid record sheet in each group/bubble to record any first aid incidents. Head bumps will still be notified to parents. BME staff will not be expected to administer first aid or personal care.

Cleaning and hygiene

The school is expecting staff to leave the premises shortly after the end of their shift providing classrooms are tidy and equipment is wiped clean. Staff will prepare materials for the following day at the beginning or end of their session as they cannot all use central areas and stock rooms at the same time.

Bubbles have been provided with generous supplies of antibac wipes and sanitiser for 'on the go' cleaning.

Toilets are marked and allocated for each group/bubble to reduce cross contamination.

Mr Haslett will be opening school at 7am every morning and completing grounds checks and then returning every evening to complete a thorough cleaning process between 4 – 6pm.

Curriculum

The government guidance asks schools to decide on their curriculum during this period. Staff will use the EYFS as a guide but are encouraged to focus on PSED and C&L. Outside learning is also encouraged in government guidelines and so each group has free flow access to an outside area.

Adaptations to the structure of the sessions will be mindful of the need to reduce contact or room 'overload.'

Materials brought in from home

Children are asked not to bring items from home. A bag of spare, clean clothes will be brought in on their first day and kept in school until the end of term or when it needs replenishing. Some will need a packed lunch in a disposable bag. School story books will not be sent home.

Parents and Visitors on Site

Parents are not permitted on site at present.

Children being dropped off at school must be passed over at the designated point in the school car park and directed to their bubble by a member of staff. Parents are asked not to arrive too early to ensure social distancing. Allocated signage is in the car park to advise parents where to stand.

Children must be collected from school to ensure that social distancing measures are managed by parents. There will be no mixing between groups/bubbles.

If staff need to contact you then they will do so by phone or email. If you wish to contact the teacher then please email or call the school to leave a message. Teaching staff cannot respond to emails during the teaching day but admin enquiries will be answered as soon as possible.

Social Distancing

Children and staff are expected to follow the two metre distancing expectation where possible and will be reminded of this regularly. However, we realise that this is impossible with such young children but will be encouraging this sympathetically.

Areas in the bubbles are spaced out according to this guidance. Each bubble of children has a designated outside areas which will keep the bubbles apart. There will be no drawing of boxes for children to sit within.

Where social/physical distancing may not be maintained then staff may choose to wear masks/gloves provided by the school.

We will not be moving children between groups, once allocated.

Dealing with someone who is unwell or showing symptoms of Covid – 19

- If a staff member or pupil displays symptoms (i.e. a new or persistent cough, a raised temperature or a decrease/loss of the sense of smell or taste) then you will be contacted immediately to collect your child. At this point all persons in contact with that individual will be entitled to testing.
- Falsely suspecting- it is almost guaranteed that some of these incidents will be false alarms. We ask that you are courteous to staff who will have to ask you to collect your child even if you do not agree. If a child is feeling off colour but displaying none of these symptoms, we will still contact you to come and collect your child as we need to ensure germs aren't spread. The usual 48 hours absence after the last bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea remains in place.
- Procedures- if a child or adult shows symptoms or becomes unwell we will notify all persons in the group/bubble and any others that have been in contact. All children will need to be collected asap and we need reliable and suitable contact numbers for each child in school. Any person displaying symptoms will be gently isolated in an outside area, ideally and in the designated area (Mrs Willcox's office) if not. Disposable paper masks will be given to anyone coughing/exhibiting clear symptoms but not to those children aged 2 or under. Children will not be left alone and will ideally be supervised by staff known to have had the virus.
- Entitlements- staff, adults and children believed to have been in contact with a suspected case are now entitled to Covid – 19 testing. Details can be found on this link <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>
- Track and trace procedures are expected to be in place soon.

Playground/Outside Play

Children are encouraged to use outside spaces as much as possible. Each of the classrooms has a designated outdoor area. There is no 'one-way' system in the school as all children will remain in their bubble. Lunches will be eaten in the bubble or their outdoor area.

Complaints

If you are unhappy with any element of school then please contact the headteacher via email head@peartreeway.herts.sch.uk. Mrs Willcox will endeavour to respond as soon as possible but is part of the teaching team so her priority will be with the children during the school day. There is no requirement for school governors to process complaints during the partial closures of schools in order to allow us to focus on managing the current situation. If you are unhappy with any incident please consider whether it is the school's issue or one of guidelines, please consider that staff are working in new and less than ideal circumstances and learning as we go. We aim to resolve any issues as best possible. Thank you.

Behaviour

The school's behaviour policy remains our guide but some situations may need to be addressed differently. As examples, children spitting or deliberately refusing to maintain

social/physical distancing guidelines would need to be addressed in a more serious manner and may not be permitted in school if the risk to others is greater.

Other situations may occur and, if necessary, will be dealt with. We are aware that there may be anxiety and trepidation from children, parents and staff so these will be dealt with sensitively. I may be tempting fate but we rarely experience major behaviour issues in school so It is hoped that with children in small groups then the behaviour is likely to be excellent!

We are on the same journey but not all in the same boat and if we're kind with each other, we shall get through this together.

Deb Willcox
Headteacher

Issued 27th May 2020