1. Introduction

This plan is based on the contingency framework for managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 and the schools operational guidance, provided by the Department for Education (DfE).

We will only implement some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by our local authority (LA), directors of public health (DsPH), Public Health England (PHE) health protection team or the national government. Once we have a confirmed case, we will follow the Milton Keynes Council approach to reporting and acting on cases.

It may be necessary to implement these measures in the following circumstances, for example:

✦ To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school (defined by PHE thresholds)

✦ If COVID-19 infection rates in the community are extremely high, and other measures have failed to reduce transmission

✦ As part of a package of measures responding to a 'variant of concern' (VoC)

✦ To prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

2. Seeking public health advice

When a new case is reported to us, we inform the Local Authority, and this information helps the local Public Health team to monitor the impact of COVID on the local community.

When one of the thresholds above is met, we will review our Risk Assessment along with hygiene and ventilation measures already in place.

We will also seek public health advice from a director of public health or health protection team. We will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687) or contacting the local Public Health team and/or email c19settingsandschools@milton-keynes.gov.uk. Cases will also be reported via the online form at: https://www.miltonkeynes.gov.uk/forms/ShowForm.asp?nc=GXLS&fm_fid=920

3. Shielding

We will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding, which would apply to those on the shielded patient list (SPL).

We will speak to individuals required to shield about additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning.

4. Other measures

Parents, carers, pupils and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of control measures. This will be done via email once a decision has been made.

If recommended, we could review and/or limit:
✦ Whole school assemblies

- ✦ Whole school lunchtimes, eating together inside
- ✦ Staff around the positive case not mixing
- ✦ Enhanced cleaning, further to our COVID cleaning regime
- ✦ Separate toilets for children in the affected classes / Year groups
- ✦ Residential educational visits
- ✦ Open days
- ✦ Transition or taster days
- ✦ Parents coming into school
- ✦ Live performances
- ✦ Volunteers or visitors coming into school

If recommended, we will (re)introduce:
- ✦ Bubbles, to reduce mixing between groups
- ✦ Face coverings in communal areas and classrooms for staff and visitors (unless exempt)

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list, and if necessary, we will review and may reintroduced measures from our comprehensive COVID Risk Assessment.

5. Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort. If recommended, we will implement the measures in this section.

5.1 Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- ✦ Vulnerable pupils
- ✦ Children of critical workers

5.2 Education and support for pupils at home

All other pupils will be required to stay at home and will receive remote education through our Microsoft Teams provision.

We will aim to deliver remote education that meets the same quality and quantity of education that pupils would receive in school, as outlined in our Remote Learning Policy, which is accessible from our school website.

The schools will continue to provide meals or lunch parcels for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines. Parents will be informed to collect their lunch parcel from the appropriate school which their child attends. If this is not possible, other arrangements may be made on an individual basis.

5.3 Breakfast / Afterschool clubs

In the first instance, if a positive case is identified, we can put measures in place to minimise contact between the affect classes / year groups.

If necessary, the next step may be the reintroduction of a bubble system.

Where appropriate, we will limit access to those that need it most.

We will communicate who will be eligible to attend once the restrictions are confirmed.

5.4 Safeguarding

We will review our child protection policy to make sure it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective.

We will aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL, on site wherever possible.

If our DSL (or deputy) can't be on site, they can be contacted remotely by telephone, or email.

When vulnerable pupils are absent, we will:

- ✦ Speak to parents/carers and, where applicable, social workers and the local authority, to work out the reason for absence

- ✦ Encourage attendance

- ✦ Make sure vulnerable pupils can access appropriate education and support while at home

- ✦ Maintain contact, and check regularly that the pupil is able to access remote education provision