

THE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL GROUP LTD

COVID-19 Policy



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Date:	1 st September 2024
To be reviewed:	September 2025 (or as required)
Reviewed:	Apr 2020; Aug 2020; Sept 2020; Oct 2020; Nov 2020; May '21; Sept 2021; 22 nd Nov 21; 30 th Nov 2; Sept 23, Sept 24
Version:	12

INTRODUCTION

The Alternative School is committed to ensuring the health, safety and welfare of all its staff and pupils. The school ensures a safe working environment by complying with Health & Safety legislation and adopts recommended safe working practices.

The advice remains that the way to control this virus is with the system of controls.

According to the CDC, symptoms still include (but are not limited to) cough, congestion or runny nose, diarrhea, fever or chills, shortness of breath, and loss of taste or smell. The symptoms may start out as mild, but in some people, they can become more severe as the disease progresses.

This document aims to provide guidance to staff in relation to recommended safe working practices. To ensure consistency in working practices across all school sites these recommendations and working practices **must** be adhered to.

All of our schools are fully open, and teachers are providing traditional classroom education and outdoor learning opportunities to pupils.

Department for Education

The operational guidance for schools was withdrawn at the end of February 2022. Since March 2022 when the final Covid restrictions were lifted the UK Health and Security Agency (UKHSA) has advised that COVID-19 should be managed like other respiratory infections, such as flu.

COVID-19 presents a low risk to children and young people. This, combined with high vaccination rates in the population, means there are no longer specific rules relating to COVID-19 in schools, colleges, childcare and other education settings.

Staff working in school:

All staff should be working in school, unless you are too ill to do so and are 'off sick'. **TAS does not operate a working from home policy/procedure.**

- If you present covid symptoms, staff should wear a face mask whilst in school, and regularly wash or sanitise your hands.
- Ensure that points of high contact such as keyboards, landline and mobile phones are wiped down regularly.
- Ensure any surfaces that have been touched are sanitised before leaving the school, such as door handles; light switches; bathroom and kitchen facilities (using the purple EC4 sanitiser spray that is available on site, following manufacturer's instructions and C.O.S.H.H. safety data and using P.P.E.).
- Staff who travel to or from work in the same car, should wear a face covering during their journey if any person presents symptoms.
- Face masks and hand sanitiser will be available at all sites for staff to use.
- TAS encourage all staff to participate in a healthy lifestyle in order to increase immunity and to take full advantage of the staff benefits that are available to all staff.

- If there is a 'spike' in covid cases at any particular campus we will reduce the risks of cross-contamination by not moving staff across the various sites, and we will move any essential cross-campus meetings to a zoom meeting.
- If there are any cases of covid within a campus, we would advise that visitors will not be allowed on site.

Equipment

When sharing equipment between different groups, you should clean it by wiping over with EC4 spray, before it is moved between groups.

Using the school minibus:

It is advised that each individual should occupy the same seat on outbound and return journeys, according to the seating plan prepared by the class teacher.

All necessary safety checks must be carried out in advance, and an appropriate risk assessment completed for the journey.

All areas of contact must be wiped down with a disinfectant/sanitising product after each use e.g., EC4 purple sanitising spray; following manufacturers guidance (e.g., steering wheel; gear stick; seats; seat belts).

Any sanitising or disinfecting products such as EC4 sanitising spray must not be accessible to pupils, and should be stored in a locked glove compartment, or remain with the teacher.

Staff carrying out home visits to pupils

When carrying out a home visit staff should stay outside of the house when speaking with someone from the household. Do not enter the house under any circumstances.

If you feel there is a safeguarding concern, notify your DSL immediately.

Lateral flow testing

Test kits may be purchased at stores such as local pharmacies and Home Bargains; b



& m stores, however these maybe subject to availability.

Pupils affected by covid

If any pupil is affected by covid, they can still attend school. We would request that the pupil wears a face covering whilst in school to reduce the risk of spreading the

infection to other pupils or staff. Any pupil who does not attend school will be marked as absent due to illness.