

Covid-19 Risk Assessment Summary Statement Grasmere Academy



In light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Department for Education published guidance on the 2nd July 2020 to assist schools in their planning to safely re-open to all year groups from September 2020. This guidance instructs schools to conduct a Covid-19 risk assessment which has resulted in the implementation of control measures that will ensure we provide an environment that is as safe as is reasonably practicable and in line with current government guidance.

Grasmere Academy is committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of our pupils, colleagues, visitors and contractors. Throughout the pandemic we have worked closely with our Local Authority partners to risk assess our premises and activities in order to develop and embed control measures and systems of work that minimise the risk of transmission of coronavirus (Covid-19).

Our risk assessment was originally developed in the May 2020 to enable the re-opening of our school to limited years groups and key-worker pupils from the 1st June 2020. Since that time our risk assessment has been subject to continual review and update as further government guidance became available.

This document sets out a summary of the results of our COVID-19 risk assessment and demonstrates our commitment to provide a safe environment for the education of our pupils and a workplace for our colleagues who are working in, and will be returning to, their normal work setting. It highlights examples of the measures we have adopted to ensure pupils, staff, visitors and contractors attending Grasmere Academy can do so safely.

Our risk assessment follows the Health and Safety Executive's Five Steps to Risk Assessment which includes:

- Identifying the hazards
- Deciding who can be harmed and how
- Evaluating the risks and deciding on precautions
- Recording the findings and implementing them
- Reviewing the risk assessment and updating it where required (i.e. where guidance has changed)

We have developed our risk assessment in consultation with key stakeholders within the school, including our Governing Body, our staff and our trade union representatives. The risk assessment is a 'live' document which continues to be reviewed on a regular basis following changes in guidance and taking on board feedback from staff, pupils, parents and visitors.

We appreciate that some of our parents and carers may have concerns about their children returning to school, but we would like to reassure you that the school have

acted on professional advice; we have consulted with relevant bodies; and we have taken all reasonable steps to ensure the environment is as safe as possible.

Summary of Results

Control measures include, but are not limited to:

- Engagement with the NHS Test and Trace Program
- Implementation of an effective infection control program which includes:
 - Regular handwashing
 - Cleaning/sanitising stations at key areas within the school
 - An increased cleaning regime for regular touch points and resources used during teaching activities
 - Immediate response to individuals showing COVID-19 related symptoms
- Introduction of a class/year/corridor group bubble which minimises the amount of contact between individuals on site
- Social distancing for staff and pupils who can follow social distancing requirements
- Introduction of one-way systems
- Adaptions to classrooms including removal of furniture and changing of desks to prevent face to face or side on contact
- Minimising the amount of staff who provide support to pupils
- Changes to the structure of the school day to ensure integrity of bubbles (e.g. staggering entrance/exit, toilet breaks, break times)
- Signage to remind all staff, pupils and visitors of key COVID-19 control measures that are operating on site
- Review of our emergency response procedures including evacuation and local outbreak
- Increased support from a wellbeing perspective for staff and pupils
- Revised visitor access arrangements to minimise the routes of access to the school site
- Individual risk assessments for staff and pupils with (or living with) particular characteristics, additional or complex needs including those with Educational Healthcare Plans
- Amendments to the curriculum activities to ensure safety (e.g. increased outdoor activities, changes in the way lessons are delivered)
- Review of ventilation within the school to ensure there is a constant flow of outside air circulating
- Sharing of measures with key stakeholders including site neighbours and contractors (including dedicated school transport) to ensure consistent adherence to the school's risk control measures

Grasmere Academy continue to work closely with the Local Authority and it's partners to ensure we act on all advice and guidance as it becomes available in order to provide the safest possible environment for everyone within our school. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we move forward through this challenging period. Should you have

any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact **Kerry Lilico** on **0191 222 0259** or **info@grasmereacademy.org.uk**

Signed

Headteacher

Chair of Governors