
COVID-19 School Contingency Plan

(in the event of isolating pupils,
teachers or any form of class or
school closure)

Autumn 2021

Pardes House Primary
School

Headteacher: Rabbi J Sager
Menahel: Rebbe S Roitenbarg

SCHOOL CONTINGENCY PLAN IN THE EVENT OF ISOLATING PUPILS, STAFF OR ANY FORM OF CLASS OR SCHOOL CLOSURE

September 2021

Introduction

At Pardes House Primary School our principal aim is the safety and well-being of our staff and pupils. We recognise that the absence of pupils and particularly staff due to COVID-19 infection will impact differently on all of us and we acknowledge that children, families and staff will continue to face a variety of situations and challenges while the pandemic continues.

The purpose of the School Closure Contingency Plan (Autumn 2021 version) is to ensure that in the event of children or staff isolating at home, that we can support those pupils in their continued studies, ensuring minimal disruption to their Kodesh and Chol learning as best possible.

Children isolating at home

Ordinarily this will be in the event of a child contracting COVID-19 but in an extreme circumstance may also be in the event of a class or even full school closure.

Children will also isolate at home if they are awaiting the result of a COVID-19 PCR test.

Decision-making

Regarding testing and isolation of children

Any decisions regarding PCR testing of asymptomatic children or children that have been a close contact of a peer or peers with COVID-19 will be made with the advice and guidance of the Department for Education, Public Health England, London Covid Response Cell and Barnet Public Health. Advice and guidance will also be taken from the Local Authority senior education team.

General questions and queries regarding COVID-19

The school will read and follow government guidance, expectation and instruction but will also contact any of the above agencies if there are any questions or queries at all regarding COVID-19. This may be in relation to but not exclusively:

- Changes in control measures
- Attendance
- Seeking public health advice
- Testing for COVID-19
- Ascertaining other organisations to liaise with
- Communication with parents

Guidance being followed

Key guidance:

- Schools COVID-19 operational guidance
- Contingency framework: education and childcare settings

Other guidance / documents of note:

- Coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread
- PCR testing to check if you have Coronavirus
- NHS Test and Trace in the workplace
- Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection
- Pardes House COVID-19 risk assessment
- Pardes House COVID-19 outbreak management plan

Teaching and Learning

Our aim is to keep our core purpose of teaching and learning continuing as effectively as possible for pupils in school and for children isolating at home. We will endeavour to keep teaching and learning as 'normal' as possible for all but this may well be impacted if the class teacher themselves is isolating with a case of COVID-19. Further detail now follows.

Children isolating at home with COVID-19:

This applies to individual children, groups of children or a whole class.

The purpose of home learning is to:

1. ensure continued progress in learning;
2. maintain sense of learning discipline for children;
3. keep pupils minds active;
4. enable pupils (and parents) to retain important connection with teachers and Rebbes.

Home learning will be put in place for children isolating at home with a COVID-19 infection. However, if that child is unwell, we will not expect them to complete the learning tasks set for them. We will rely very much on the parent partnership with this. This applies to both Kodesh (Religious Studies) and Chol (National Curriculum studies).

Home learning activities will be based on lessons prepared by teachers and Rebbes. We will continue to have high expectations of all pupils to complete the work set and in the learning that takes place so long as they are healthy and well enough to do so.

Teachers isolating at home with COVID-19:

If teachers are isolating at home with at home with COVID-19, they will still be expected to be part of the planning and teaching process, so long as they are fit and healthy enough to do so. No expectations will be placed on staff with COVID-19 who are unwell from the virus. If teachers are well enough to work from home while isolating, they will be expected to:

1. continue liaising with their parallel class teacher
2. continue planning work for their boys
3. keep up communication with parents
4. liaise with other colleagues including senior staff
5. attend meetings via Zoom

If teachers are not well enough to work from home, the parallel class teacher will take responsibility for ensuring home learning opportunities are sent home for the child. The parallel class teacher will be supported with this by the key stage leader. If the key stage leader is isolating at home with COVID-19, the teacher will be supported by another member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Home learning – Kodesh

- The Rebbe (Religious Studies teacher) will record lessons taking place in school, which will then be shared with the parent and pupil isolating at home.
- Recorded lessons may well be accompanied by written tasks and other activities.

Home learning – Chol

- The class teacher (or other member of staff) will email learning packs and activities to the parent each day that the child is isolating.
- This may include a short video or audio message/lesson introduction, work sheets, activity packs etc, all designed to ensure as minimal impact as possible to the child's education while their peers are in school.

Special Educational Needs and EHCPs

- For children with special educational needs (SEN) in isolation with COVID-19, we recognise that planning for home learning may well take a different approach. This will be considered carefully by the class teacher, in conjunction with the Inclusion Leader.
- Extra attention will be given to meeting the individual needs of children and young people with SEN and their families in the event of isolation or a class closure etc.
- The Inclusion Leader and Kodesh SENCo will work with teachers, Rebbes and parents in this regard.

Health and Wellbeing

- We recognise that health and wellbeing are paramount and we appreciate that the level of work that might be undertaken by a child will reflect the situation and circumstances at home. Parents should remain in contact with the class teacher, Rebbe and/or Headteacher and Menahel regarding this.
- Teacher and Rebbe wellbeing is also important. Teachers and Rebbes are not expected to respond to phone-calls, messages, emails etc outside of school hours.

Speaking to parents

- Parents will be informed again of teachers' email addresses as required, in order to be in direct contact with them. They are able to contact Rebbes through other means.
- Parents are aware and will be informed again that they will most likely only receive a response from teachers during school working hours: 8.30am – 4.15pm.
- Parent conversations with teachers and Rebbes should be based around their child and class learning and activities, not about whole-school decision-making, strategies, decisions and protocols, which are the remit of the Headteacher and Menahel.

Speaking to pupils

- Teachers and rebbes will endeavour to contact children isolating at home during the school day.

Speaking to pupils – Learning Support Assistants

- Pupils with an Education Health Care Plan will be called by their Learning Support Assistant (LSA) on a regular basis while isolating at home.

Use of technologies to aid learning

- It is the ethos of our school to not have children actively engage with web-based software at home.
- This includes the use of online video lessons through platforms such as Zoom, nor encouraging children to carry out research online.

Other school communication

- The school will continue to communicate with parents via the 'Teachers2Parents' text and email system.
- Parents should watch out for and pay attention to school texts and emails as they will contain important information and sometimes attachments.

Whole school closure

- In the unfortunate event of a whole-school closure, the school will re-implement its COVID-19 Contingency Plan (2020)

Rabbi J Sager

Headteacher

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