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Introduction

It seems like only days ago since we were saying how normal this term was feeling. Unfortunately COVID rates this week have hit us very hard and we are managing outbreaks within a number of our schools. We have a great many staff off ill or isolating and have implemented contingency plans in quite a few schools. I have attempted to clarify with the DfE at what point we would hit a trigger for return to remote provision for a class, cohort or whole school. The bar is set very high. They sent me the following quotations from the Contingency Framework:

“attendance restrictions should only ever be considered as a short-term measure and as a last resort: for individual settings, on public health advice in extreme cases where other recommended measures have not broken chains of in-setting transmission...”

“In extreme cases, and as a last resort where all other risk mitigations have not broken chains of in-school transmission, a DPH may advise introducing short-term attendance restrictions in a setting, such as sending home a class or year group (as they could for any workplace experiencing a serious infectious disease outbreak).”

That is not to say that we should not switch to remote learning. Where we see cases spreading despite our mitigations or where our capacity is falling to a point where we cannot deliver a safe or effective service, we will need to make the switch. Northleaze moved to RL with Year 4 today.

At a risk of taking coals to Newcastle, we should be following the stages below if we sense cases rising in our setting:

1. Ensuring that hand sanitation, wiping of surfaces and social distancing mitigations are in place.
2. Avoiding unnecessary large events, such as assemblies. These can be switched to Teams etc.
3. Considering use of masks for adults and secondary school pupils.

If we have reached an escalation threshold and after advice from Health Protection Teams in our LA we may then consider:

4. Reintroducing a bubble for a particular class or cohort.
5. Reintroducing bubbles across a school.
6. Moving to Remote Learning for a class/cohort with provision for Key Workers' Children and Vulnerable Learners.
7. Moving to Remote Learning for the whole school with provision for Key Workers' Children and Vulnerable Learners.

Louise and I are manning the phones and intervening with the DfE and Health Protection Teams as necessary. Do not hesitate to call.

On another topic, you will see that we have secured access to the Bath and Wells Governors Conference next month. They have a good range of options and the conference is online so I expect that you can pick and choose which bits you attend or do the whole event. Can I ask heads and Clerks to ensure that all governors see the invitation. There is no charge to schools but delegates will need to book themselves on and put 'Lighthouse' as the company or school name.

It always seems that we hit the end of term exhausted. This term is absolutely no exception. Thanks everyone for your work in leadership and governance and roll on Friday evening!

Gary

Update to the contingency framework for education and childcare settings

The DfE has updated the [contingency framework](#) to reflect the position for people previously considered clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), the shielding programme and details on when increased COVID-19 testing can be recommended by Directors of Public Health. They have also clarified that education and childcare settings do not routinely need to provide staff details to the NHS Test and Trace Self-Isolation Hub. Further information on the NHS Test and Trace Self-Isolation Hub is available in the [guidance on NHS Test and Trace in the workplace](#).

The contingency framework describes the principles for managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 in education and childcare settings. It covers all types of measures that you should be prepared for. It also sets out thresholds for managing COVID-19 cases and when you should consider seeking public health advice. This document is a particularly useful to reference at this point in time as we see an increase in the

Implementing contingency measures if you reach a covid-19 escalation threshold

We have taken advice from the Public Health Teams at both Bath & North East Somerset and North Somerset Council's in relation to the escalation thresholds.

Their advice is that we should treat positive LFD results as a positive covid-19 case and refer them for a PCR. Please see notes below:

- People with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#).
- Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.
- If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self test LFD test and there is no longer need to self-isolate as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

This relates to children/young people as well as adults.

The UK Health Security Agency has issued [a communications update](#) on negative PCR tests following positive LFD tests which may be of interest.

We considered whether we should continue to allow negative PCRs to override positive LFDs. We feel that, from this point onward, we can have more confidence in PCRs again. The NHS confirmed that it was the Wolverhampton lab, not the tests themselves that was the issue. If a child or an adult has symptoms, they should not be in school. If they have a positive LFD but no symptoms, they should not be in school until they have had a negative PCR. We have asked the LAs to recognise that, although primary school pupils are not asked to take LFTs, if they do so we must act on the results.

Please find the escalation thresholds detailed below (further information is available in the DfE's [contingency framework](#)) :

- 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID 19 within a 10 day period.
- 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID 19 within a 10 day period.
- There are any admissions to hospital for COVID 19.

Please note that positive LFD results should be included as you consider the escalation thresholds.

Action to take if you are at, or approaching the escalation thresholds:

- Contact the local health protection team for advice. For B&NES contact Millie Cody, Health Improvement Officer - COVID-19 on 01225 395500 and for NSC contact Brighton Masvaure, Health Protection Practitioner on 07385430492
- Inform the Central Team of the situation and action that you are planning to take following discussions with the health protection team. The Central Team can support you in determining the action that you are planning to take and any decision to move to online learning must be taken following a discussion with the Central Team
- Consider the additional measures that you are planning to put in place (further details are provided below) and update your risk assessment. The [contingency plan template](#) can help you to plan the additional measures and it may be helpful to reinstate a previous version of your risk assessment, albeit with some adaptation. All previous versions of the Trust's risk assessment template are available in [Foldr](#).
- Consult with staff on the changes to your risk assessment. However, time is of the essence when the escalation threshold has been reached and it may be necessary for you to put additional measures in place before staff have had chance to respond to you. This is ok as long as you still listen, respond and adapt your measures to the issues raised by staff once the urgent arrangements have been put in place.

Daytime cleaning arrangements

We informed you in the bulletin recently that we were giving notice to our cleaning contractor to end the daytime janitor services in term 2. Given the level of cases, we have reviewed this decision and have asked the cleaning contractor to continue this service until at least Christmas. We recognise that, due to staff turnover, this may present a problem for a small number of schools and we will contact schools in this position. Those schools which have a local cleaning contractor are recommended to contact them to discuss continuing daytime janitor provision until Christmas. I apologise for any inconvenience but hope that you recognise our reason for taking this decision.

Information on contact tracing in education and childcare settings

Schools do not need to carry out routine contact tracing. NHS Test and Trace undertake the identification and notification of the close contacts of a positive COVID-19 case.

In response to recent queries, the DfE have updated the contact tracing 'frequently asked questions' which can be found on the document sharing platforms for [primary and early years](#) and [secondary schools, further education and higher education](#).

SIAMS update for Church Schools in LSP

The new national SIAMS team have written several documents that replace any previous ones published in 2018. The new documents are now on the Bath & Wells website. They are also on the Church of England [website](#).

There is a slightly revised Evaluation Schedule. Here are the key changes:

- References to the previous inspection have been removed, because of the length of time since that inspection.
- Examples of excellence have been removed from the grade descriptor section in each strand, and a section on Excellence provided at the back of the document
- There are some small changes to the grade descriptors for a Good Church school
- There is a whole new section on the Methodist Principles for Education, for those in Methodist or joint foundation Church schools.
- There is more clarity on what constitutes 'Ineffective' as a Church school

There is opportunity for schools to show how they have supported their communities and enabled them to flourish during the Covid lockdowns and school re-opening, in line with their vision.

The other important document is the 'Information for Schools', which contains really clear information on:

- The new Scheduling and Notification process (now done by the national team, not at diocesan level)
- Clear guidance on self-evaluation and what the inspector requires
- Step by step guide to the inspection process
- Covid guidance

Inspections are due to resume in October 2021, starting with the schools who missed their inspections in late March 2020 and summer term 2020.

- The national team has issued a full list of 2021-22 inspections which has also included some schools that were due their inspection in the autumn term 2020.
- These inspections could happen at any time during the academic year, regardless of the month or term of the previous one.
- 44 schools in Bath and Wells Diocese are due to be inspected this academic year - each of these schools are aware that they will be in this '1st wave' of inspections.

EYFS

The DfE has published some excellent [short films](#) on implementing the EYFS changes this year. Heads should take 15 minutes to watch them and also pass these on to colleagues.

National Professional Qualifications Funding announcement

National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) are a national, voluntary suite of qualifications designed to support the professional development of teachers and leaders.

The government have announced that there will be **full scholarship funding**, with no cost to the participant, for **all** the NPQs. *Teachers and leaders employed in state-funded schools and state-funded organisations that offer 16 to 19 places in England can access a fully-funded NPQ from autumn 2021, to support teachers and pupils following the disruption to learning faced as a result of COVID-19.*

Please follow this link for further details:

[National professional qualifications \(NPQs\) reforms](#)

Our LSP programmes are with **Ambition for Secondary** and **Education Development Trust for Primary**. Delivery will be through the Five Counties Alliance, and programmes start in early 2022. Leaders who wish to be considered for NPQ programmes will need to seek the consent of their Headteacher and register on the DfE portal. Please contact the LSP Centre for Professional Development for further details on the application process lgeorge@lsp.org.uk or jashman@lsp.org.uk

Admissions - In Year Applications

Update to last week's Bulletin:

For North Somerset primary schools the North Somerset Admissions Team manage in year admissions so it is not necessary to include the form on your website. Please refer direct to the North Somerset Admissions Team.

For BANES primary schools and all secondary schools, [this form](#) will need to be added to your school website.

Admissions Policies 2023/24

We are working with the two local authorities to update our admissions policies for 2023/24. These will be issued for consultation in December. Headteachers and local governing bodies should be aware that we will not make any changes to each criteria unless you ask us to do so. The single exception to this is that, for North Somerset primary schools, the criterion in the policy relating to 2016/17 introduction of first geographical area is now removed from the policy.

Bath & Wells Governor Conference

This virtual conference is being held on Friday, 5th and Saturday, 6th November (the programme is the same for each day). Please see the flyer [here](#). The Diocese offers high quality governance training which is not just focused on church schools. We have purchased a block of tickets, following feedback from Chairs of Governors expressing interest. There is no charge to schools but delegates will need to book themselves on and put 'Lighthouse' as the company or school name.

Please click [here](#) to book a place.

The Diocese will send each participant an email the week before the conference so attendees can indicate their workshop choices.

LSP Christmas Card Competition

We would like to invite primary and secondary school pupils to create a festive design for this year's official LSP Christmas card on the theme of Environmentally friendly.

The winning three designs will feature on our website, twitter feed and LSP Gateway where staff will be able to send as an ecard.

Please send entries to cgiordmaine@lsp.org.uk by Friday 12 November.



LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP



NPQ Full Funding for EVERY COURSE Now Available!

As you will know, the Church of England is now offering the whole suite of NPQs for school leaders – in partnership with the Catholic Education Service. It has been announced today that **these will be available to all teachers and leaders in state schools fully funded**. Thanks to massive support for both Church of England and Catholic dioceses right around the country, we have been receiving a very encouraging number of applications from all over – and that has been without this full funding! Just imagine what can be possible now...!

A number of our cohorts for each course will run in November in particular parts of the country where recruitment is already the strongest, before the majority start in February 2022. Through these cohorts we will be able to show our unique approach, such as the expert coaching which is integral to every single course and the strong moral imperative to ‘serve the common good’.

In your particular Diocese, the cohorts are extremely close to being full and therefore nearly ready to run – however, we would really value your support in finding those final few leaders from your schools/MATs to complete the groups by Monday 18 October. Who might now be keen to take up one of these courses? Where are your future leaders? It would be great to get large vibrant groups in place as we launch.

We would love to work collaboratively with you over the next few days to really maximise our November recruitment for the **NPQH** and **NPQLT**.

Please contact Emily Norman (Head of Partnerships and Inclusion) at emily.norman@churchofengland.org or your Regional Delivery Manager Nicki Antwis at nicki.antwis@dbat.org.uk who would be delighted to connect you with local Delivery Partners.

With huge gratitude for your continued support in this great endeavour.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Wolfe'.

Andy Wolfe

Executive Director of Education

Church of England



PARENT CARER COFFEE MORNING

The Whiteoak Academies
of Hannah More Infants
& Grove Juniors

Monday 8th November
9.30am-11.00am



LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP



SAY
SEND AND YOU
SENDIAS

Come and meet other parent carers of children with additional needs and/or disabilities, share your experiences & see what support & information is available

North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together (NSPCWT) is hosting a coffee morning for parents in the LSP Backwell Hub. Please can schools share the flyer with accompanying info with parents and carers:

Are you a parent or carer to a child/young person with an additional need or disability (no diagnosis needed) and attend any of the following schools: The Whiteoak Academies of Hannah More Infants and Grove Juniors, Backwell Secondary, Wraxhall, Flax Bourton, Northleaze, Yatton Infants and Yatton Juniors, Backwell Juniors and Westleigh Infants. If so, come and join us for an informal coffee morning on the 8th of November.

We are North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together (NSPCWT) and are here to ensure the collective parent carer voice is heard. SEND and You (SAY) will be there. They are the Special Educational Needs & Disability Information, Advice and Support (SENDIAS) service and can offer help with Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP's), other legal processes, and information, advice and support on all kinds of SEND issues at every stage of your child's education.

Come and share your experiences, meet other parent carers and enjoy some coffee & cake!

Monthly recharges

As you are aware, as part of the introduction of monthly accruals and prepayments, we are processing journals for core services and other recharges to and from the Central Team and schools on a monthly basis. We have had a few queries about a couple of items charged to nominal code 5165. These are 'Lead Teacher for Pupil Engagement (Andy Baker)' and also the CPD charge (£2.50 per pupil) that was previously paid to the Teaching School at St Peter's Primary and is now being charged by LSP.

Please can we remind schools that recharges between schools and the Central Team made on nominal 5165 must not be moved to different nominal codes as the intercompany account balances provided to the auditors at year end will not balance across the Trust. You can, of course, journal any recharges to a different cost centre as you wish. Thank you.

IR35/Self Declaration

We are still seeing a number of IR35 checks being undertaken after the appointment of contractors. Please be reminded that all checks should be undertaken prior to any work commencing. We have rejected a number of invoices as a result of lack of information and will continue to do so. It is the schools responsibility to ensure that the contractor is compliant prior to any work being carried out, the school must follow the process and obtain the necessary information to determine the individuals working status.

Click [here](#) for guidance.

Payment Run

Just a reminder there is no payment run during the October half term break, the next payment run will be w/c 01 November 2021. Copy of the paylist schedule can be found [here](#).

Audit Visits

Bishop Fleming have made the decision not to undertake site visits in person this year with the exception of one school. However they are likely to touch base with the selected schools within the week commencing 01 November 2021. As per previous years the auditors have prepared a schedule of samples across the Purchase Ledger, Sales Ledger and Staffing to test. This is no different to previous years, we expect to have the final schedules this afternoon at the latest for distribution across the schools, with a return date of Friday 22nd October '21 prior to half term. These requests will be within Foldr [Schools Business Managers > Trust Wide > Audit 2020-21> Audit Samples or Sample Requests](#).

This is a new section that we are introducing to our weekly news bulletin to summarise the latest news and information for those involved in our school governance. Our thanks to John Purcell for providing this information.

SOURCE THE KEY:

- Private school fees 20/21 were 90% higher than state school per pupil funding, compared with a gap of 39% in 2009/10 (BBC News)
- Periods and low confidence put some girls off sport (BBC News)
- National Professional Qualifications funding (see NGA too), will now be available for every school in the country (Schools Week)
- UK's "strictest" Headteacher, Katharine Birbalsingh has been made social mobility chief (The Guardian)
- Schools picking up the pieces amid lack of support services (Schools Week)

SOURCE NGA:

- DfE introducing reformed suite of national Professional Development Qualifications (NPQ's) to support teachers and leaders to become more effective in and out of the classroom.
- Secretary of State for Education: promises to make England "one of the best places a teacher can learn and master their craft"; to close the disadvantaged gap. He added that he was not setting an arbitrary deadline by which all schools had to have joined a MAT.
- Grant applications now open for senior mental health lead training. £1200 grants available for 33% of schools/ colleges this financial year, first come first served basis. Visit DfE website for more details.
- School Building Condition: Data collection programme: every state school to be visited over the next 5 years.

SOURCE DfE:

- Local Health Teams may advise an increased frequency of Lateral Flow Tests at schools in the event of an increase in positive Covid cases.
- All schools can now access their allocations for School Led Tutoring grants.

SOURCE OTHER:

- Bath and Wells Diocese: Governor Conference 5/11 and 6/11, same programme each day, 9am to 4pm, virtual, with "screen breaks" and optional workshops to select from. Visit www.bathandwells.org.uk for more details and to book. (Charges apply)