

St Anne's Primary School Emergency Flu Pandemic Plan

This plan has been drawn up using the DCSF guidance 2006. In the event of a flu pandemic the following actions should be noted:

The general advice from the DCSF is that the school should seek to continue operating as normally as possible during a pandemic – but should plan for much higher than usual levels of staff absence and the consequences of this, as well as for other possible disruption resulting from the pandemic's impact on other services.

However, schools (and childcare settings) are potentially different from other settings. Children are highly efficient 'spreaders' of respiratory infections, both among themselves and to adults in their families. There is some evidence that such infections spread less among children in holiday periods than in term-time. So, closing schools and childcare settings for a period might significantly reduce the number of children infected.

We will not know until nearer the time, when we know more about the nature of a pandemic strain of virus, and children's vulnerability to it, whether the Government will advise schools and childcare settings to close to pupils for a period during a pandemic, but it is a possibility. Any such advice would affect each region only when the pandemic reached it, based on central guidance about when to close and re-open, but it is very likely that all areas would be affected at some stage.

St Anne's school will therefore plan both for remaining open during a pandemic and for possible closure.

The website should be checked for up to date information by Parents/ Carers and act as a source of information

Staff should come into school, unless ill, caring for dependants or authorised to work elsewhere.

The school will only close on the advice of the governing body (who may wish to delegate this power to the headteacher) The criteria they will use will be:

- Government/ LA advice to close
- Too many staff absent to safely care for pupils
- Too many pupils absent (x % of pupils absent–LA advice)
- Advice to close all schools in an area.

If the school remains open , it will be necessary to take precautions against the further spread of infection.

Preventing spread of infection:

- Sick pupils/ staff will be isolated from others in the medical room until they can be collected by parents/ travel home
- Hand washing using antibacterial gel should be implemented
- Tissues should be disposed of immediately
- Hard surfaces in kitchens, classrooms and staffrooms should be cleaned regularly with an antibacterial cleaner
- Sick staff/ pupils should not attend school -they should not come into school/ work if they have any flu-like symptoms (sudden onset of fever, headache, muscle pains and feeling ill, with or without sore throat, cough or difficulty breathing).

If there is advice to close all schools in an area, the LA would tell schools when this advice will be reviewed; after such a review, the LA would advise schools whether to remain closed or to re-open and, if they are to re-open, whether any specific conditions should apply.