



## Glenwood Risk Assessment

### Approach to our System of Controls and Contingency Arrangements

#### Under 'Plan B' and the DFE Guidance published Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022

Although Glenwood is not a Health setting our learners have complex health needs which means that I am justifiably referring to guidance given to both Health and Care in addition to DFE guidance. During the height of the pandemic it has been valid for Glenwood to align our practice to these settings because of the nature of our work with young people.

We are uniquely placed in terms of the learning profile of our young people and the level of care they need in addition to their specialist education provision.

We have primarily referred carefully to the Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022 DFE guidance. With reference to the additional guidance for specialist settings and, within that, *informed consent to testing*.

#### **Important factors influencing our assessment of risk:**

- Delivering our learner's EHC Plans in an effective and safe way requires a high ratio of adult-learner support ideally from familiar staff because of our SLD learner profile. Where staff absence is unavoidably high due to following national isolation guidance this presents a significant challenge to securing appropriately staffed provision on a daily basis.
- Our assessment of risk, although we fully take on the importance of testing, deduces a significant number of our secondary aged young people SLD/PMLD with would not have a toleration for or understanding of regular testing;
- This has an additional impact with reference to guidance published on 22<sup>nd</sup> December whereby Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. It may be that learners that cannot easily be tested would have to complete 10 full days regardless.
- Whilst we understand families will do their very best to take up the offer of vaccination for eligible young people we also appreciate that the procedure will present a challenge to those young people who do not tend to manage medical procedures well and without distress.
- To mitigate the additional risk this entails we will enhance other control measures described in the guidance.
- All of our young people qualify for exemption from wearing face-coverings including secondary age. Social distancing beyond what staff can reasonable achieve in staff-only contexts is exceptionally challenging in relation to the levels of understanding and abilities.
- Staff wear face coverings in communal areas and where staff work across corridors however where the current guidance requests that face coverings should be worn within secondary age classrooms this must be met with professional discernment where young people may become distressed or not tolerate this as a safety measure. To mitigate the additional risk this entails we will enhance other control measures described in the guidance.
- We have learners with complex health needs involving weakened immunity and chest/lung vulnerabilities; we are an SLD/PMLD community with a high degree (70%) level of severe autism which has an implication on levels of understanding and operational challenges with our system of controls.

- We are an all-through school where learners of all ages are taught within the same building. Some specialist spaces are timetabled carefully but safe usage requires enhanced cleaning regimes in between sessions and this may decrease the time during which the spaces are operational.
- Also, we will monitor our 18+ population regarding vaccination and bring in contingency planning should have to isolate at 18 + 6 months.
- Home-School Transport necessarily involves mixing primary and secondary age young people in mini-buses each day for two journeys.
- We have a high level of visiting professionals entering the building each day who are essential to the quality of education and care.
- A remote education offer may look very different for learners in our setting because learning is primary adult-led and requires a high level of personalised and multisensory interaction. The capacity to deliver a face to face on-line remote offer will not meet demand and for some learners will not be completely accessible without significant support from the adults with them.

**In alignment our practice for at the beginning of the Spring Term 2022 is communicated to Glenwood families as follows:**

The Department for Education has published updated guidance for schools to follow from January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022. Here is the link to the full guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings>

We are uniquely placed in terms of the learning profile of our young people and the level of care they need in addition to their specialist education provision. In the section above I have explained some of the key areas of risk and challenge we face as a school and as a part of the local community.

In the next section we will outline what the broad government guidance is and how Glenwood will be responding.

We have kept the Local Authority aware of my risk assessment and decision-making because we are a Local Authority school; they agree with me about our plans.

**Bubbles**

Government guidance states that ‘Bubbles’ will end for all children under 18, social distancing will no longer be necessary. However, due to the school’s unique profile, we will still keep broadly to corridor groups but this will only aim at ‘limiting’ contact and we will not keep a hard and fast rule if there is a good reason to mix associated to essential learning and wellbeing.

Staff can work across corridors to ensure the safe and smooth-running of the school but they will wear face coverings when their work takes them across bubbles in the course of the day; this includes our therapists and visiting professionals.

We will always make a balanced decision on whether it is in the learner’s best interest to move across corridors; we just want to do what we can to reduce contacts and keep going as a school.

Assemblies will resume but in Corridor groups or using the screen to ‘broadcast’ where appropriate. We will explore making these valuable times safer by organising assemblies to be shorter in smaller groups and look at the content of assemblies so that the class groups can still remain at a distance but

within the same space. We feel that these valuable times for wider socialisation are important to maintain in some form.

Lunches will still be eaten in same Corridor groups given the vulnerability of children in the school. This means that a greater number of different spaces will be used for lunches than prior to the pandemic. Staff when practicable will wear face coverings in communal areas such as this.

### **Arrival and Departure**

We have reverted back to a more manageable arrival and departure procedure for the school so we would like to encourage those parents who are entitled to home-school transport to resume this service. This will mean that we are able to move away from having additional arrival and departure waves which are disruptive to young people and really hard for staff to sustain.

Staff supporting arrival and departure will wear face-coverings and keep to a one-way system to avoid unnecessary congestion in the corridors.

We will endeavour to work closely with 24/7 central office should any transport concerns arise due to staff shortages or transmission concerns.

### **Testing**

Staff will continue to test twice weekly.

The guidance states that two onsite tests should be taken by each secondary school and college student on return after Christmas, followed by twice weekly testing at home. However, this would be too much to ask from most of our secondary aged learners and so we have decided to put a stronger emphasis on other measures to protect our community.

I would remind families that they still have access to free testing for siblings and household members; to use this opportunity is still highly recommended even if it is out of the question for your Glenwood young person who is identified as a close contact or who displays symptoms. Asymptomatic test kits are still available to families and when we are able we will send kits home in case they are useful to families. – this link includes more information: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

From January staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result or displaying symptoms should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID - 19. However, from Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> 20 Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

The requirement for confirmatory PCR tests is to be temporarily suspended for positive lateral flow test results. From Tuesday 11 January 2022, in England, people who receive positive lateral flow results for COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

Health and social care workers, including those working in education settings, should follow guidance for their sector on taking LFD tests on day 8, 9 and 10. For more information, visit [COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients or residents in health and social care settings](#).

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

21

### **CEV - clinically extremely vulnerable children and young people**

The UK Clinical Review Panel has recommended that all children and young people under the age of 18 should no longer be considered CEV and should be removed from the Shielded Patient List, the national database of people considered clinically extremely vulnerable.

All children and young people should continue to follow the same guidance as everyone else, which can be found at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus). For a very few individual children specific clinical advice may be given and this should continue to be followed.

The Department for Health and Social Care have developed an [FAQ](#) that can be accessed online.

Last term a letter has been sent by the Department of Health and Social Care to the families of children and young people who were previously classified as CEV informing them of this change. Although shielding was paused on 1 April 2021, we know that for some this may be a significant change and they may be anxious about returning to face-to-face education for the after the Christmas break for the Spring Term. Whilst attendance is mandatory, we will work collaboratively with families to reassure them and to help their child return to their everyday activities. Discussions should have a collaborative approach, focusing on the welfare of the child or young person and responding to the concerns of the parent, carer or young person.

### **Self-isolating**

Children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case.

Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 4 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

### **Control Measures**

Protective Measures will remain in place for the Spring Term at Glenwood including practicing good hygiene, ventilation, and regular staff testing to strike a balance between relaxing restrictions and minimising further disruption to young people's education.

We will:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate enhanced cleaning regimes; including specialist spaces
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated including increased ventilation in between uses for specialist spaces
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Because not all young people are able to test we may need to be extra careful when young people display any possible symptoms, and we ask parents to bear with us as we try to balance our responsibility to keep the school as safe as we can especially with the increased rate of infection presented by Omicron.

All education settings will continue to have an outbreak management plan and work with local health teams, as is standard practice. Local Directors of Public Health may advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures in the event of an outbreak.

As a 'Breathing Building' Co2 Level control is a feature of the school's intrinsic design however we will look more closely at using monitors in addition.

We will also put more emphasis on ventilation and remind staff to 'air' specialist rooms in between uses and provide as much natural ventilation in teaching spaces as is practical, comfortable and safe.

### **Accessing the Community**

Again, because of our specific vulnerability as a community we will defer the *full* resumption of trips out. However, where some visits do not involve wider mixing with the community and where the risk assessment deduces that the educational benefit outweighs the risk of leaving the school site we may go ahead.

### **Face coverings**

At Glenwood we have learners with complex health needs coming in to school every day; we do need to remain extremely vigilant in order to keep them safe. Therefore, we will continue to wear face coverings in the way that we do now; using our discernment where risk is greater.

The general advice to all schools is that face coverings are advisable in communal areas and in secondary aged classes. As school community and have a duty to consider our more vulnerable children and young adults therefore all staff will wear face coverings in communal areas and where

they work across corridors however where the current guidance requests that face coverings should be worn within secondary age classrooms this must be met with professional discernment where young people may become distressed or not tolerate this as a safety measure. To mitigate the additional risk this entails we will enhance other control measures described in the guidance such as continuing with bubbles.

Our young people are exempt for mask wearing on home-school transport but drivers and escorts will take this measure and Glenwood staff escorting to and from buses will also wear face-coverings.

Glenwood staff sometimes wear PPE in connection with our everyday care of young people. We will continue to do this as it is unrelated to COVID-19 measures but may be enhanced due to increased risk of infection.

### **Visitors**

Until the national review at the end of September we will continue to meet with parents on-line unless there is an essential reason for an in-person meeting. Much as we want to see you all again face to face we think a slight delay is a small price to pay for keeping the cases down and keeping the school up and running.

### **NHS Test and Trace**

Close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. However, where we are able to assist and make others aware of risk we will most certainly do so. We are most appreciative when staff and families make us aware of positive cases as this helps us play an important part in keeping everyone safe.

When reporting self-test results parents will now be offered the opportunity to create a household account, which should take no more than 2 minutes. This allows parents to save their children's details to their own user accounts so parents can report results for multiple members in the household more quickly and easily. Parents can then add all household members to their account, enabling them to save time when reporting all future self-test results.

### **In alignment our guidance to all staff is as follows:**

The DFE has published updated for schools from Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022 (links to full guidance can be found above;

Summary changes to guidance with reference to school are:

1. Bubbles will end and social distancing will no longer be necessary - *for Spring Term 2022 Glenwood will continue to keep broadly to corridor groupings to limit contact. Staff can work across corridors to ensure the safe and smooth-running of the school but they will wear face coverings when their work takes them across bubbles in the course of the day; this includes our therapists and visiting professionals.*
2. *We will always make a balanced decision on whether it is in the learner's best interest to move across corridors; we just want to do what we can to reduce contacts and keep going as a school.*
3. Staggered arrival and departures are no longer necessary - *for Glenwood we will move back to learner arrivals between 9am and 9:15am and departures between 3pm and 3:15pm. Staff will wear face covering whilst escorting to and from transport and follow the one-way system.*

4. Staff working in education settings are to continue to undertake test twice weekly lateral flow testing onwards through the Spring Term. Please report results to <https://testregister.co.uk/login> with your school email or use the QR code previously supplied. Test kits are available from reception.
5. From 16th August if you're fully vaccinated or under 18, you do not need to self-isolate following close contact with someone who has COVID-19. You will receive separate guidance to clarify the 7-day isolation period and the LF testing required to clear staff for a safe return.
6. Protective Measures will remain in place for the Spring term in all education settings including practicing good hygiene, ventilation, and regular staff testing to strike a balance between relaxing restrictions and minimising further disruption to young people's education
7. Face-coverings: The general advice to all schools is that face coverings are advisable in communal areas and in secondary aged classes. As school community we have a duty to consider our more vulnerable children and young adults therefore all staff will wear face coverings in communal areas and where they work across corridors however where the current guidance requests that face coverings should be worn within secondary age classrooms this must be met with professional discernment where young people may become distressed or not tolerate this as a safety measure. To mitigate the additional risk this entails we will enhance other control measures described in the guidance such as continuing with bubbles.
8. The staff room furniture will be returned to how it was pre covid, but we ask staff to take a cautious and sensible approach to mixing and gathering over the lunch break - windows should always be open.

Liz Cornish Jan 2nd 2022

#### Glenwood Contingency Planning

#### **When settings should consider extra action**

For most education and childcare settings, whichever of these thresholds is reached first:

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

In the eventuality of an outbreak the school will consider the reintroduction of measures previously in place during more severe periods of the Covid crisis and lockdowns.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

In the event of meeting the thresholds outlines above advice is always sought from the DFE and the Local Public Health teams.

In the event of staff absence presenting a risk to the safe running of classes with decision to ask families to keep their young people at home for the shortest period possible will be taken. This is a last resort and occurs when the class team cannot be viably or safely be replaced or when no other solution for the safe accommodation of learners by using other class groups with lower numbers or redeploying cover staff can be reasonable put in place.

In this event families (and transport operatives) are informed at the earliest possible stage and kept up current with a viable return date.