

Dear all, last night the Health & Safety Governors met and reviewed the Whole School Risk Assessment and received feedback from 2 separate Governor Health & Safety drop-ins.

It is of the utmost importance that you are familiar with this document - I admit that when I read it again there were things I noticed needed to be reviewed or that I was doing incorrectly.

Below are the headlines from the meeting regarding updates or clarifications. THIS email is just to remind you that you MUST read thoroughly the updated policy when it arrives - this is currently being amended so look out for an email.

Section 1: The use of the hand held thermometers is for use on those who are suspected of having symptoms. Instructions must therefore be read carefully before using. The mini strip thermometers are for children to use independently although current Public Health England routine temperature checking is 'not a reliable method for identifying coronavirus'.

Section 3: KB had to complete a rush order through her personal Amazon account for wipes recently, she was not informed that stocks were low until almost all had been used. Use spray and cloth for cleaning tables - including atrium tables. Wipes for use on equipment such as iPads and the photocopier. It takes time to check that any resources purchased are cross checked so that they adhere to COSH regulations.

Section 4: LG and JK communicated with Sue in the kitchen regarding slow finishers at lunch - she agreed that staff collecting in the trays at the end of lunch will clean the atrium tables ready for use by classes after lunch. LG and JK also noticed too many children huddled around small tables facing each other and chairs being moved from other atrium stations. This may cause cross contamination between bubbles - it is also annoying when staff come out with children to work to find furniture missing.

Ensure that any loose paper rolls are not left on the floor or shelves - they fall off and are then not clean for children to dry hands with. If you can - can class staff ensure if they are not in a dispenser that they are in a clean container of some kind.

Section 5: LG is starting to complete a separate risk assessment for her diabetic child - if PPE is required to be worn each time his monitor beeps and needs to be checked, the frequency of this needs to be recorded and its impact evaluated. Any other children within other class settings should consider this if they are unable to monitor their levels independently and require adult contact.

The Governors commented on the sterling job that breakfast and afterschool staff had done to maintain social distancing - this has been noticed and is appreciated.

Please can all staff continue to wear a mask upon entry/exit to school.

...my document stops having section numbers at this point so I will refer to page numbers from now on.

Page 11: Lack of social distancing in class - once the second lockdown has been lifted SLT/Head etc will look again at this section including the sharing of equipment.

Pag 13: Toilets - continue to insist that children and staff wash their hands regularly and properly.

Page 18: Risk assessment regarding singing: Can sing in class as long as: STAFF STAND BEHIND CHILDREN IN OPEN DOORWAY, AIR IS CIRCULATING FREELY. ANY STAFF WITH UNDERLYING CONDITIONS SHOULD LEAVE THE ROOM. KEEP SESSIONS TO A MINIMUM.

pag 19: PPE - if staff are wearing reusable masks they must wear a clean one EACH DAY.

Page 22: fire risks and doors - Governors agreed that previous fire drills had shown that staff were competent at removing door stops from classroom fire doors into the atrium. Therefore doors should continue to be kept open wherever possible. Please ensure that bins are still kept outside the classroom - staff must monitor the door as they are heavy and door props are unreliable in high winds. Middays especially have been made aware of this.

Page 25: One pupil in particular and the risks he poses - LA meeting coming up to address this and our current concerns.

Page 26: Stress/mental health - every member of staff has an appraisal target to support the work being completed by the school SENCO/Mental Health Lead. This in itself is an enormous task. Look after each other - be mindful of line managers and Leaders workload too. Is anybody checking on them? (Governors).

Page 28: Dispensing of medicines - this will be monitored and addressed in order to ensure more staff are confident at administering medications within their own bubble wherever possible. KB noted a distinct reduction in the number of medications being brought to school by parents for their children.

Finally - it may be wise for Mentors to ensure that their trainees are involved in discussions with each staff team and are up to date with any changes to the current risk assessment. This can form part of their evidence as well as ultimately keeping themselves safe.

KB also raised with the Governors how much online Health & Safety training had been completed during lockdown - including Paediatric online training.

2 Governors shared updates from their H7S drop ins, these will result in separate reports. They noted that staff are trying very hard to also keep on top of day to day H&S issues.

Apologies for the length of this email - but it does contain important information.

THank you  
Linda Grant