Beech Lodge

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Health & Safety Addendum

This COVID-19 policy addendum sets out changes to our main Health and Safety Policy and must be read in conjunction with that policy, and Public Health England's guidance and Beech Lodge School Essential Visitor Protocol.

Aim
To ensure that the risks of COVID-19 presented to pupils, staff and visitors are reduced to an acceptable level.

Objectives
To conduct all our activities safely and in accordance with legislative standards and in consideration of government guidance.

To provide safe working and learning conditions

To ensure a systematic approach to the identification of risks and the allocation of resources to control them

To openly communicate on health safety and welfare

Policy Statement
Beech Lodge School recognises and accepts its responsibility as an employer and provider of services and will provide a safe and healthy workplace and learning environment for all staff, pupils and such other persons as may be affected by its activities.

We will adopt health and safety arrangements under COVID-19 in line with Health & Safety legislation, and in consideration of government guidelines.

Good health and safety management will be an integral part of the way that the school operates and will be considered across all work activities and across the wide range of educational activities delivered.

The School Will:

- Apply and communicate sensible risk management and safe working practices. This will involve:
    - Regular assessment of hazards and associated risks
    - Implementing preventive and protective control measures against those risks to an acceptable / tolerable level
    - Monitoring the effectiveness of those measures by the SMT
    - Provision of information, instruction, training and protective equipment to staff (and pupils where required)
    - Review of risk assessments, policies, procedures and practices at regular interval and where additional information is gained through changes in government guidance, monitoring or following an incident
- Implement measures to ensure social distancing is observed across the site, consistent with and appropriate to the numbers of pupils, staff and visitors in the school. It must be noted that due to the specific neds and young age of some of our pupils social distancing is very difficult to adhere to; both parents and staff have been made aware of this fact and the potential increased risk.
- Maintain an appropriate hygiene regime to be followed by all pupils, staff and visitors.
- Operate an enhanced cleaning regime for the duration of Covid-19.
- Ensure that staff are informed and instructed to ensure competence and awareness of health & safety precautions required during Covid-19.
- Give age appropriate lessons to pupils about Covid-19 and to encourage and re-assure them about the measures in place to protect themselves from it.
- Require all employees and encourage and support all pupils to show a proper personal concern for their own safety and for that of the people around them.
- Require staff to exercise increased due care and attention and observe safe working methods.
- Communicate regularly and effectively with staff and parents about the school's response to Covid-19.
- Provide for children of critical workers and vulnerable children to be accommodated.
- Support to be put in place in conjunction with families and other agencies for all pupils at the school. All children at Beech Lodge School have special educational needs or disabilities and the majority of the children at the school have Education Health Care Plans.
- Put in place any flexible working arrangements needed to support delivery of education during Covid-19 including where necessary staggered start / end times.
- Put in place measures to check on staff wellbeing (including SLT).
- Draw up contingency plans for:
    - Someone falling ill or demonstrating symptoms on site.
    - Deep cleaning in the event of an outbreak of Covid-19 on site.
- Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) as required by staff.
- Put in place arrangements for the continued education of those children who have not yet returned to school.

Staff must take personal responsibility to ensure that they have fully read and adhere to the following to protect their own safety and that of children.

- The most up to date copy of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Risk Assessment for reopening for Autumn Term at Beech Lodge School – this is available on the school website.
- First Aid during Covid-19 – Amendments to the First Aid Policy with regard to treating a suspect case of Covid-19, and managing First Aid during the pandemic can be found in the Coronavirus Infection Prevention and Control Policy.
- Government guidance regarding use of PPE, opening, actions for school during the coronavirus outbreak which are found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak-guidance-for-full-opening-schools

The link to all Government guidance is circulated to all staff daily.