

Educational Continuity

During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Objectives

The school recognises that whilst the COVID-19 pandemic continues, there is a risk of further disruption to the normal operation of the school. This may occur as a result of high levels of staff or pupil absence, caused either by illness or by the requirement for individuals or groups to self-isolate or complete a period of quarantine. It is also possible that a further period of physical closure may be required, either because of an enforced local or national lockdown, or because the School Management and the Board of Governors judge that circumstances make it unsafe to open the school. In the event of disruption, the school will always continue to deliver education to the best of its ability in the given circumstances, with the aim of maintaining continuity of learning. The school will strive in every way it can to mitigate the impact of disruption and to ensure that this strong and supportive community remains purposeful and productive.

Background

The safety of pupils and staff is the school's primary concern and a wide range of measures have been introduced to reduce the risk of virus transmission. In addition, steps have been taken to reduce the number of close contacts that any given pupil has during the school day in order to minimise disruption in the event of a pupil testing positive for COVID-19.

We recognise that the risk cannot be completely eliminated either in or out of school, but ask every member of the Wellington community to follow both national guidance and that provided by the school.

Test and Protect

The school works closely with the local Health Protection Team and cooperates fully with the 'Test and Protect' programme used in Scotland to identify positive cases of COVID-19 and to track and trace contacts. All members of staff and pupils are required to comply fully with any official guidance or instruction and COVID-related absence will be handled in line with NHS and Scottish Government guidelines. A member of the Senior Management Team sits on the 'NHS Ayrshire and Arran Covid-19 Educational SPOC Group'.

Possible Scenarios

A number of possible scenarios have been identified that may result in disruption to teaching and learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Partial or complete school closure as a result of a local or national lockdown

This scenario applies if either the whole school or one or more year groups are required to remain at home. In this situation, the school would continue to deliver education remotely to the best of its ability to those groups of pupils unable to attend school. Further information is available in the document entitled 'The Remote Learning School' that can be found in the Parents Information section of the school website.

2. High pupil or staff absence rates as a result of illness

The school will continue to support pupils who are unwell in the usual way. Teachers have been encouraged to use Google Classroom as part of their normal practice in order to ensure that teaching materials, resources and tasks can be accessed readily by all pupils, whether in school or at home.

Staff absence due to illness will be covered normally, in so far as that is possible with the available resources.

3. High pupil or staff absence rates as a result of measures imposed by Test and Protect

Any pupil who is well, but working from home will be supported by his or her teachers by means of Google Classroom and other online platforms in accordance with the guidelines included in The Remote Learning School. It should be born in mind, however, that in this situation teachers will have to consider the needs of both those in attendance and those at home. Generally, the delivery of high quality lessons to those in attendance will be the top priority.

If a large number of pupils in a particular class are required to stay at home whilst well, the teacher may decide to work in a way that prioritises the online delivery of lessons. In this situation, online teaching will take place at the times in the day determined by the normal school timetable.

Any members of staff who are well, but working from home will endeavour to deliver online lessons and support pupils, whether in school or at home, to the best of their ability.

4. 'Blended Learning'

In the event of a local or national instruction to limit the number of pupils attending school at any time, the school may be required to adopt a 'blended learning' model. A detailed plan for this scenario was drawn up in June 2020 and this will be adapted as necessary and deployed if the need arises.

Summary

In the event of further disruption to teaching and learning due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the school remains committed to delivering the best possible education to all pupils. The exact approach will depend on the particular circumstances, but will take full account of the experience gained during the period of physical closure from March to June 2020.



S P Johnson (Headmaster)

7 September 2020