

The Avenue Pre Preparatory School & Nursery

COVID – 19 Continuity Plan

Agreed by Proprietors and Advisory Body
January 2021

Introduction and context

In light of the fast changing and developing impact of COVID – 19 and government advice on self-isolation, the school has been faced with the difficult decision to temporarily close until further government direction; the rationale being that this is the next stage in holding back the peak development of the virus, thereby reducing the potential for serious illness amongst vulnerable groups in our society.

Proprietors and the Advisory Body will respond to the ongoing advice from DfE and Public Health (England) to ensure that actions taken remain in line with expert medical opinion. As necessary, they will continue to review the situation at regular intervals to ensure plans remain appropriate to identified needs at any one time.

Proprietors and the Advisory Body will seek to find best ways to support children in their own homes during this closure, including academic and pastoral help from existing Avenue staff members (although staff will not be permitted to visit children in their own homes). In effect next term, help and support will be provided through the provision of work, regular Zoom meetings, materials, advice and guidance with named staff members being specifically linked to named children so that communication can be immediate and effective by telephone or email.

Regulatory bodies (Ofsted, DfE, ISI, ISA etc.) have been advised of the current situation and decision. Staff will be party to briefings with the Principal and Head who will retain and maintain a copy of the Single Central Register of all staff appointments (current and archived) in locked, secure and confidential conditions. It will be important to maintain accurate records for any current or future information/data requests.

It is a priority to support parents/carers in meeting the needs of the children and staff will produce regular updates on children's progress during the term. Staff will also provide advice and guidance to parents/carers in addition to having high quality material available to support continuous plans, as required.

Academic continuity

Parents/carers will be given the name of a linked member of staff from The Avenue School who will keep in regular contact and provide advice and guidance on all academic matters. The Principal/Head will maintain oversight of this arrangement and ensure that accurate records are kept

of all contacts together with the help and support provided through telephone or email communications.

Remote teaching and use of electronic media and video

Existing school policies with regard to IT acceptable use, child protection and staff code of conduct meet current requirements in accordance with DfE advice and guidance in the context of COVID 19. In providing such resources to meet the needs of children at home it is an expectation that these policies will remain in force and will be followed by all concerned. All video material will be examined by the Principal/Head before its use and materials will be stored in secure facilities. Parents are asked to fully cooperate with this arrangement and to ensure all teaching and learning materials provided by the school are utilised in accordance with existing arrangements within the school.

Pastoral continuity

Pastoral support will continue to be provided to ensure the welfare of individual children is being actively considered at all times. Named staff at The Avenue School will maintain oversight of pastoral needs and ensure that discussions take place to identify specific support needs when necessary. The Principal and Head will maintain oversight of this arrangement and ensure suitable records are held of any advice provided. Staff in touch with families will obtain any specialist advice needed and will also provide help and support with regard to behaviour management, as this is likely to be a significant issue for children within their own homes.

Safeguarding

The school policy on the protection of children and safeguarding their wellbeing remains in place and staff will continue to apply the policy where any safeguarding matters or child protection concerns are identified. The Principal/Head, will ensure that staff regularly seek information as part of their daily contacts on wellbeing matters and report to the DSL in line with current school policy.

Human resource implications

At this stage and pending any reviews, staff are expected to work remotely following the explicit direction of the Principal/Head. Staff will be expected to maintain agreed contact with named

children and to utilise the time, for which they are being paid, to undertake all reasonable tasks as directed by the Principal/Head. Matters of annual leave, sickness and discipline will be managed in accordance with current protocols.

Additionally, staff will ensure they continue to produce reports on all contacts they have had with children and families by telephone or email and the use of any materials agreed in advance by the Principal/Head (such as video material). The opportunity also exists for all staff to complete any outstanding administrative tasks, including ongoing CPD using Educare.

Staff will continue to be paid in line with these revised duties and usual arrangements for sick leave will be maintained in line with current government agreement that statutory sick pay is applicable from day one of sickness absence. Staff will be reminded by Principal and Head that the school has no legal obligation to pay staff who do not arrive for work in the usual way, despite the particular circumstances set out above. In effect, it is expected that staff will arrive for work each day or to work remotely under the authority of the Principal/Head. Sickness must be notified in the usual way to the Principal/Head.

School leaders will be reviewing these arrangements in light of national advice and particular circumstances, including the overall capacity of The Avenue School to re-open when free to do so.

Review

School Leaders will review this continuity plan and its effective working at regular intervals and will keep staff and parents advised of any changes.

Reviewed 1 January 2021

By Martin Ayres & Mary Fysh

Reviewed annually



[1] 'Cantabile' is a registered trademark