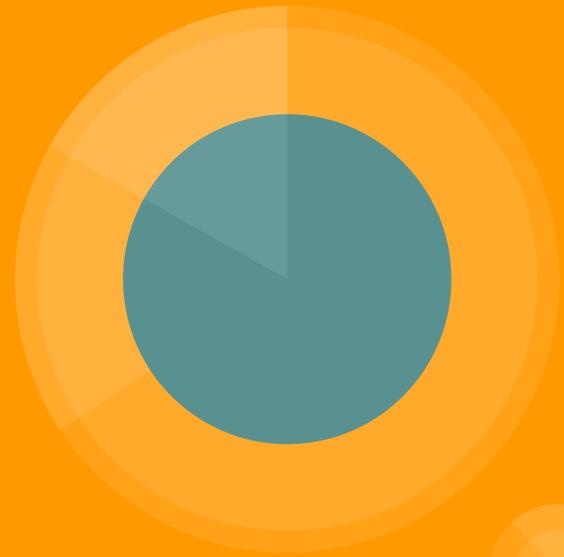
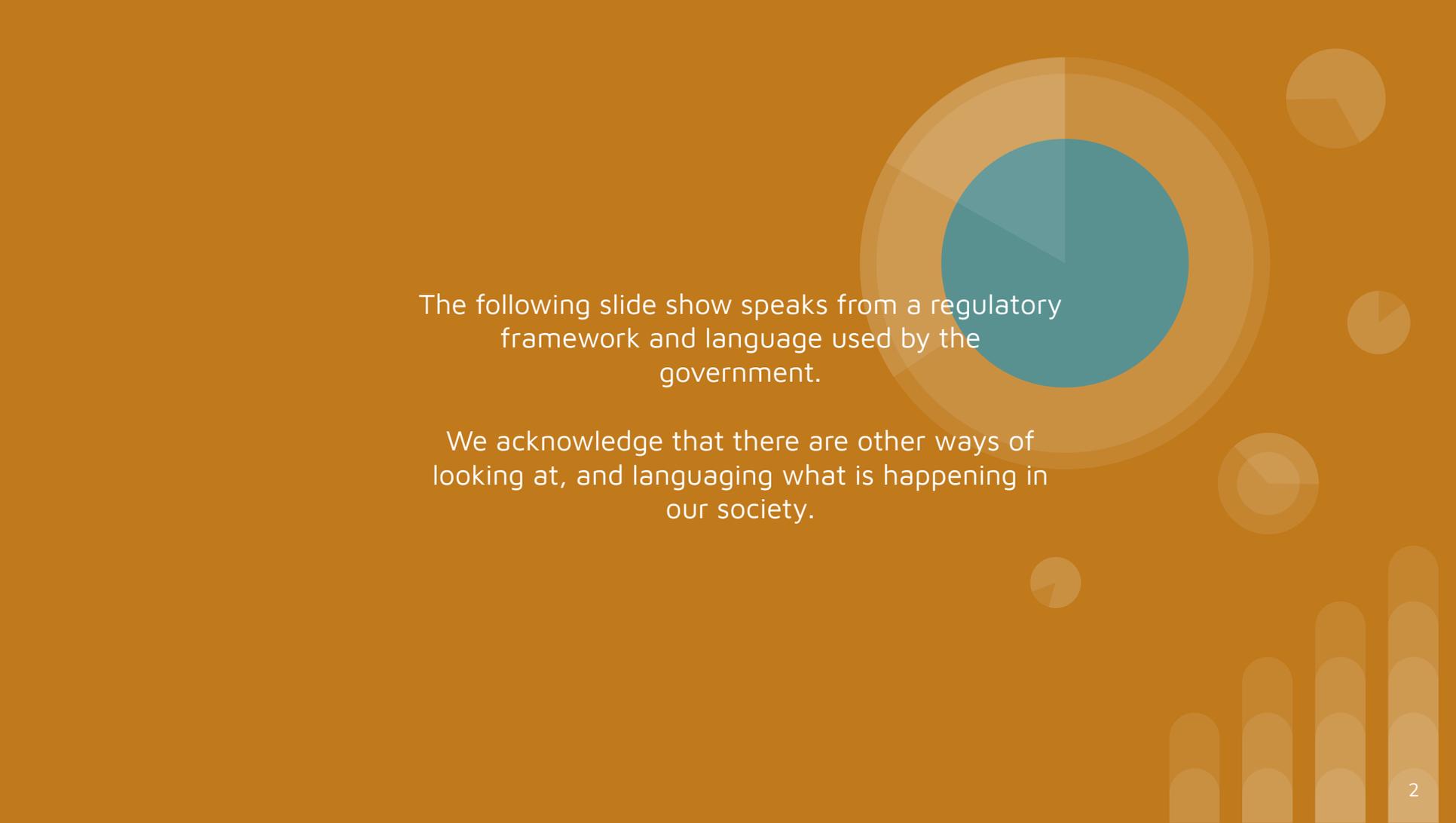


# COVID-19 safety precautions - Revision 3.0

South Devon Steiner School

September 2021





The following slide show speaks from a regulatory framework and language used by the government.

We acknowledge that there are other ways of looking at, and languaging what is happening in our society.



# Welcome back!

**With large proportions of the populace now fully vaccinated, DfE guidance for schools around COVID safety has been 'stepped down' overall.**

**But what does that mean for our school?**

# Our school community as a unique collection of human beings

The DfE **strongly recommends** that all adults and individuals over the age of 17 years have the two COVID-19 vaccinations, and also undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic self-testing at home.

Vaccination and Asymptomatic Testing do however remain a personal choice.

We have not asked staff, parents, children, pupils or students to disclose their vaccination status, to protect their personal and private medical information.

We have therefore had to work with the data we do have (around consent for testing and vaccination from parents), and make assumptions where raw data is not available, to formulate our COVID safety strategy for the Autumn term.





# Some facts to think about...

We know:

- A number of our staff have not had the COVID-19 vaccination.
- Approximately 70% of school parents refused consent for self-testing / testing at school.
- Approximately 80% of school parents refused consent for vaccinations at school.
- Only two boxes of tests have been collected since January (200 test kits) despite reminders to the community. From this, we can surmise that:
  - Our school community is not testing twice weekly.
  - COVID is in our community.

# What is greatest risk to our school?





# The answer: Staffing and Cover

- New Government rules state that *‘those individuals who have been **fully vaccinated**, do NOT now need to isolate themselves if a close contact, including household members, test positive for COVID-19.*
- However, those individuals who have chosen not to receive the vaccine, DO need to self-isolate should they become a close contact of someone who has tested positive.
- We know that a significant minority of staff have not yet received the vaccination/s.
- Children, pupils and students are expected to attend school as normal, and can also attend if they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- ALL members of the school community have the ability to transmit the virus, regardless of vaccination status and/or age.
- We can therefore expect a number of ‘positive cases’ in the school in the weeks to come, which may mean that some staff will need to isolate.
- **COVER, or more specifically, our ability to adequately staff our school is therefore our main vulnerability.**

# So what do we do to keep ourselves and our school safe?

## System of Controls

1. **Minimise contact with unwell individuals** - symptomatic / unwell individuals to remain at home / be isolated at school and sent home.
2. **Good hygiene** - robust hand and respiratory hygiene for all children, pupils, students, parents (when visiting) and staff. (Catch it, Bin it, Kill it, hand sanitiser etc).
3. **Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes**
4. **Keep occupied spaces well ventilated**
5. **Follow the PHE advice on testing, self isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.**



# Reducing contacts

As before, we will:

- Group together children, in classes and 'bubbles' - larger ones than last year.
- Avoid contact between the groups
- Arrange classrooms with forward facing desks (where it does not impact teaching)
- Ensure that staff maintain physical distance from other staff and adults wherever possible.

This is not mandatory but will help us to mitigate the risk to our school.



# Minimise contact between individuals...

Whilst social distancing is not now required under government guidance, we have opted to keep this in place for adults to further safeguard our workforce.

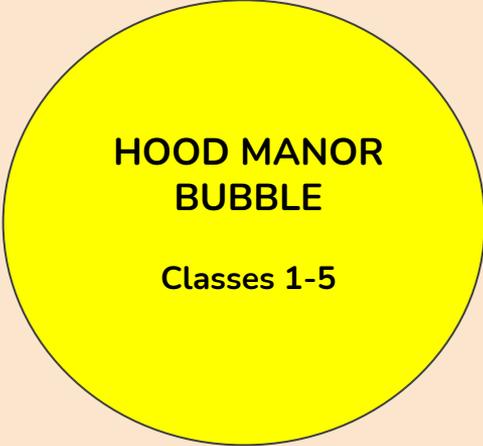
- We must work with a combination of 'bubbles' and physical distancing to minimise contact between individuals at this time - despite the 'stepping down' of official requirements.
- Hugging (for the time being) should be avoided, as should hand shaking and any physical contact.
- Please continue to use external exits in Greenwood building and the hall passes for toilet use to avoid communal areas becoming crowded.

# Our bubbles!



**KINDERGARTEN  
BUBBLE**

All three KG classes



**HOOD MANOR  
BUBBLE**

Classes 1-5



**HIGH SCHOOL  
BUBBLE**

Classes 6-12



# Risk assessment

We have updated our risk assessment to incorporate the newest Guidance from the Government.

Please ensure you read it during this session and sign to say that you have read it, before you leave.

The most up to date copy of the risk assessment will always be on the [Pupil Safety \(COVID\)](#) page of our website.

Updates to the risk assessment and policy will be emailed to you.

ALL staff are asked to check their email before 8am each day to ensure they are abreast of any changes to our protocols and/or Government Guidance.



# Our COVID-19 accountability structure

The Designated Person for COVID-19 safety precautions is:

[Kaycee Fordham](#)

The Designated Persons for the care of those with suspected COVID-19 are:

[Gaby Wood and Emma Brealey](#)

SLT will carefully monitor the measures put in place by the Designated Person through ongoing communication and review of the policies and procedures.

The Chair of Council has approved the most recent risk assessment, and will continue to monitor this through SLT reporting and direct communication with the Designated Person.



# PPE

The only members of staff who should use PPE in relation to COVID-19 are **Gaby Wood and Emma Brealey**.

Only members of staff trained to use PPE should use it.

Our PPE is stored in the COVID isolation room in Greenwood.

# Parents

Parents should drop their child to their designated gate, either on foot (Kindergarten, Classes 1 & 2) or by vehicle (Classes 3 and above) and leave site swiftly.

Parents should not linger and chat in the car parks.

If parent/teacher meetings are needed, please make an appointment and meet at the School Office to sign in. Ensure you have a place to meet arranged in advance, and go straight there, after having them apply hand sanitiser.

Parent evenings should continue online where possible or take place outside, if it is deemed that face-to-face meetings are necessary.



# Response to any infection

Our school must always follow these protocols in every case where they are relevant:

- Engage with NHS Test & Trace process
- Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community
- Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

The key staff for ensuring these protocols are followed are:

Jeff van Zyl, Julie Thomas, Gaby Wood, Emma Brealey and Kaycee Fordham

These staff members will receive further information on how to work with these protocols.



# Asymptomatic Testing

The Government is continuing to ask schools to support asymptomatic testing as part of its strategy for a safe return to school.

All school staff are encouraged to take part in asymptomatic testing. Staff can now collect a Government issue Lateral Flow Device (LFD) self-testing kit from the School Office, should they wish to participate.

**The Government strongly recommends that school staff take these tests twice weekly,**

Testing is not mandatory and does not form a condition of employment for our staff.

The School does not have the resources needed to become a testing centre at this time.

Pupils aged 11 years and over have also been asked to self-test from 1st September.

Take up within the community is LOW.



# Drop off and collection times

- Drop off and collection remains staggered. [An updated timetable is available on our website.](#)
- Parents are expected to drop their child/ren to school at the correct time, and at the right gate.
- Kindergarten children and Hood Barn pupils will use the Hood Barn gate.
- Classes 3-8 will use the Main Gate.
- Classes 1 & 2 will use the Hood Manor side gate adjacent to Car Park 2.
- The Velwell Gate is no longer a public access point and should remain closed and locked during the school day. Any access to the school must be through the School Office.
- Pupils arriving in masks must be helped to remove these safely. Disposable masks must be put in the bins provided. Reusable masks must be placed in a sealed plastic bag. Ensure pupils sanitise their hands BEFORE AND AFTER handling their mask. (for further instructions, please view the video on our website).



## Late arrivals

- It is important that the gate opening times are strictly adhered to.
- At the end of the gate opening time, it must be closed and locked.
- Late arrivals must go to the School Office and wait to be taken through to their classroom.
- Due to the risk of mixing bubbles of children, this is best avoided.
- Pupils from Kindergarten to Class 5 must be accompanied to the School Office by a parent if they arrive late.

**THE SCHOOL OFFICE WILL ONLY BE OPEN BETWEEN  
8.30am - 9.00am and 2.45pm - 3.30pm.**



# Break and Lunch Time Duty

- It is very important that individual bubbles do not mix.
- However, there is no reason for outside time to continue to be restricted.
- Teachers should ensure their pupils / students remain within their designated play area to avoid mixing with other bubbles.



# Attendance

School attendance is mandatory.

Children have a right to a full time education and should attend school unless they are unwell or test positive for COVID-19.

This means the usual rules on attendance apply.

Gaby Wood is now holding attendance and can support you with any registration or attendance related queries.



# Onsite Vaccinations and Testing

It is important to note that we have made a commitment to our parents as follows:

*We will never test or vaccinate, nor allow or facilitate testing or vaccination of the children, pupils or students of South Devon Steiner School, by an external organisation or authority **without the prior explicit and written consent of their parents.***

*This applies to ALL children, pupils and students of South Devon Steiner School, regardless of age.*