



Teams Conference Call Headteachers Session held on **Thursday 25 February 2021**
Schools and headteachers present at meeting:

Tanya Zalar – St Peters CE Primary School
Anika Hargie – Wormholt Park Primary School
Joe Brown – Old Oak Primary School
Imogen Lavelle – The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School
Martin Kincaid – St Augustine’s Catholic Primary School
Julie Howarth – Wendell Park & Kenmont Primary Schools
Phoebe du Parcq – Queens Manor Primary School
Imogen Lavelle – The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School
Robina Maher – St Mary’s Catholic Primary School
Julie Howarth – Kenmont Primary and Wendell Park Primary Schools
Dave Collins – Brackenbury Primary School
Damien McGarrigle – Addison Primary school
Claire Fletcher – St Paul’s CE Primary school
Leesa Schooneman – Fulham Primary School
Wendy Aldridge – Sullivan Primary School
Sam Naismith – Flora Gardens Primary School
Tara Baig – Miles Coverdale Primary School
Maya Wittleton – Avonmore Primary School
Sue Hayward – Sir John Lillie Primary School
Jenny McGinty – Larmenier & Sacred heart Primary School
Cath Macgonigal – Holy Cross Catholic Primary School
Karen Cunningham - St John XXIII Catholic Primary School
Jo Breslin – St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School
Kieran Gorman – All Saints CE Primary School

LA Education Team staff:

Phil Tomsett
Jan Parnell
Dr Nicola Lang
Linda Jackson
Sharon Egdell, new in post managing infection control
Ann Kenny

Agenda

Jan Parnell: Return to school

Dr. Nicola Lang: Testing

Sharon Egdell: Infection Control

AOB

Phil Tomsett welcomed all to meeting

Item 1. Jan Parnell: Return to School

JP thanked everyone for attending and wanted a quick touch base with regards to reopening of schools.

JP acknowledges schools are ahead and wants to support further where necessary.

One year away from when first lockdown began.

Acknowledged and wanted to give thanks to Headteachers and their school staff for being so resilient and dedicated whilst doing all within power to run a dual process of learning

JP wanted to start off with overview re types of things recommended re safe opening for schools and to touch base on types of preparation we need

Item 2. Dr. Nicola Lang: Testing

Our rates in H&F are around 100 mark. Not going down as much as other areas or as would have hoped. The return of schools will also see an increase in positive cases.

Slide summary of Government Education Testing Strategy with the following point applicable to Primary Schools: No testing for primary school aged children

This sets scene for schools as an education setting In terms of mitigation measures schools are a reflection of community rates:

Good ventilation

Good infection control measures

Monitoring of Bubble sizes

Hand washing Support

Offering support to parents who need to isolate with asymptomatic child.

Gathering at school gates

NL advised constant study of seeing what other countries/areas are doing and advised although other European countries were using small face masks for pupils this was not to be implemented in UK

Item 3. Sharon Egdell Infection Control

Sharon introduced herself as interim Infection, Prevention & Control Specialist adviser who will be working alongside Dr. Nicola Lang. Sharon is a qualified nurse and a Graduate of Infection Specialist

Control. Her experience is based on working in hospitals, ambulance service and community settings. Sharon requested if HTs had any questions, please get in touch with her: sharon.egdell@lbhf.gov.uk

Linda Jackson - Director of Covid-19 H&F. working with a strong team of advisors. Has brought together a group of specialists who come together once a week and can strongly recommend anyone needing support to get in touch. The group meets every Monday and are happy to come out and support schools in planning.

JP suggested a generic training session be offered to schools by Sharon Egdell for next week if possible. Sharon confirmed she can give virtual training going back over principles and explanation of how to do things. **JP** said some staff groups need reassurance. Also happy to dispel myths around

JP

- Q: Information update re Safer School Streets Programme. Some schools have particular issues re school gates. Some frustration within schools as were promised information/support.
- A: Linda Jackson agreed to support.

JP

- Q: What is correct disposal of waste products and was there any additional support or advice?
- A: Linda Jackson advised that schools should follow normal routine for general cleaning
- Sharon Egdell advised that environmental can go in normal waste stream i.e. Masks, general domestic waste.

JP

- Q: What is the situation with regards to children going to testing centres?
- A: Dr Nicola Lang Difference for PCR testing as this is for children under 12 only. Lateral flow for children over 12 only – Consent form required and available from NL if required.

JP also asked whether schools would like templates for guidance. i.e. communications. See below:

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Letter to Parents on Full Opening from 8 March](#)
- [Pupil Remote Learning Engagement Tracker](#)
- [Data Protection Policy](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Risk Assessment for Schools](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Rapid-result Testing in Schools](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Contingency Plan](#)
- [Pupil Remote Learning Policy](#)
- [Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy](#)

Dr Nicola Lang advised **Sharon Egdell** can offer give training and advise schools of amazing techniques which can really reduce risks. Sharon has previously very successfully reduced cases in care homes.

JP or NL do not have full ability of achieving what DfE request but now have asset of **Sharon** working with them. Both **JP** and **NL** look at what is happening, nationwide and internationally too and Sharon will go through this in detail.

JP advised it was hard to socially distance with 30 children in classroom.

Also SAGE advice is contrary to DfE advice. DfE have already written to ask what percentage of schools will be fully returning. However, H&F are not in a position this week to say everyone is fully returning. Have to be prepared to work with government plans and reassess situation as we go along.

JP wanted to know whether it would be helpful to negotiate with H&F Parks Dept. for them open up outdoor spaces in parks. This will be happening for Summer programme but wonders whether possible during summer term and asked whether this worth pursuing?

Keith Tysoe

Keith assumes schools will be opening on 8 March but if any schools have particular issues or problems with this, please contact Keith privately: keith.tysoe@lbhf.gov.uk

Linda Jackson was asked regarding Shielding and whether we are likely to see shielding after 31 March. Linda advised that the current recommendation would be for anyone who is shielding and cannot work from home- they should not work. However, if somebody wants to come to school although shielding they can. shielding is a recommendation not mandatory.

JP advised she is still lobbying around the vaccination issue. Staff in special schools have received vaccination offers. Some other schools have been offered vaccines. Hundreds of people are becoming vaccinated through school. In terms of other groups coming forward and moving up the priority list

Linda Jackson advised she trying to negotiate together with **Dr Nicola Lang** even though teachers not on high priority list. Hopes to offer as many vaccines as possible.

JP thanked **Linda** and **NL** for their support and said she would welcome any lobbying with regards to vaccines for school staff. **Linda** advised that she will still continue to press for a local solution.

Sharon Egdell: Picking up on comments re social distance.

Social distancing is important in the classroom but she is more interested in social distancing between staff.

Staff have a bit of tendency to drop guards and sometimes attention to detail falls short.

Important to keep these 2 issues separate.

Going into better weather so easier to ventilate rooms.

All things will help reduce risk

However, as **Dr Nicola Lang** confirmed, there will never be NO risk.

JP advised will offer generic training in first instance.

Update: **Sharon Egdell** has kindly agreed to host a generic advice session for schools on Teams on Wednesday 3 March 2021 : 11am – 12pm

Infection Control Training For H&F Schools 3.3.21

11 -12pm

Target Group: School Leadership Team

Hosted by Sharon Egdell, Infection, Prevention & Control Specialist adviser (interim), H&F

- How infections spread- Chain of infection
- Hand Hygiene

- PPE – safe use
- Effective cleaning and disinfection of surfaces and equipment, including technique
- Social distancing
- Vaccination

Please click [here](#) to register: Link will be sent to all delegates 2 hours before session commences

Item 4. AOB

Please encourage staff to sign up for wellbeing session being offered for school staff on 4 March 2021 hosted by Dr Shona Landon

Supporting and promoting the wellbeing of all staff – what can we do to look after ourselves and each other? 4.3.21

3.45 – 4.45

Target Group – All School Leadership Teams

Hosted by Dr Shona Landon, Interim Senior Educational and Child Psychologist. Educational Psychology Services

Please click [here](#) to register

Platform, Microsoft teams. Link will be sent 2 hours before start time to all those registered.

JP called the meeting to a close and thanked all for attending and colleagues who contributed to the call.