School COVID-19 operational guidance – summary for Westfield Primary School. Full advice is found at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1044530/Schools_guidance_Jan_22.pdf	
Context	Taken from the above document - The government continues to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. The Prime Minister announced on 27 November the temporary introduction of new measures as a result of the Omicron variant and on 8 December that Plan B, set out in the autumn and winter plan 2021, was being enacted. As a result, these measures are reflected in this guidance for schools. This advice remains subject to change as the situation develops. COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education remains. Our priority is for you to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health.
Risk assessment	We will continue to regularly review and update our risk assessments as the circumstances in our locality and school in line with the public health advice changes. This includes having active arrangements in place to monitor whether the controls are effective and working as planned.
Mixing and bubbles	The guidance no longer recommends that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). We will continue to monitor the guidance but removed the need for distancing in the Autumn term. Our outbreak management plans will be developed in line with guidance from Public Health. This may mean the possibility that it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups. Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of 'bubbles' would not be taken lightly. As we have lots of space we are able to use this to limit contact where necessary.
Tracing close contacts	From Step 4, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and we will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. Contacts from school will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. We may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts. If advised a person has been a close contact with a positive case they will be advised to take a PCR test and LFT for the following 7 days. We will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak.
Face coverings	From 1st November we have been advised by that staff and visitors should wear a face covering in communal areas and as they move around the school. This has also been in place for parents and carers when picking up and dropping their children to and from school. Face coverings were also recommended to be worn on public transport. The use of face coverings may have a particular impact on those who rely on visual signals for communication. Those who communicate with or provide support to those who do, are exempt from any recommendation to wear face coverings in education and childcare settings.
Stepping measures down	We will work with Public Health on an outbreak management plans outlining how we would operate if there were an outbreak in school or our local area. Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education can have on children and young people, any measures in schools should only ever be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum number of schools or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible. Central government may offer local areas of particular concern an enhanced response package to help limit increases in transmission. If there are several confirmed cases within 14 days, it may have an outbreak. In this instance we would escalate the issue to our local health protection team where necessary
Control measures	We will: • Ensure good hygiene for everyone. • Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.

	• Keep occupied spaces well ventilated, we will balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature. • Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19. • Ensure good hygiene for everyone Hand hygiene. • You should balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature. • Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19. Members of staff and pupils should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine). If a member of the school community develops COVID-19 symptoms, they will be sent home and they should follow public health advice. They should avoid using public transport and be collected by a member of their family or household. • Staff should continue to test twice a week.
Admitting children into school	In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your school, we may take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. The decision would need to be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.
Attendance	School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.
Travel and quarantine	Parents travelling abroad should bear in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return.
Remote education	Where necessary we will continue to support remote education when required and work collaboratively with families and put in place reasonable adjustments so that pupils with SEND can successfully access remote education.
Education recovery	We will continue to provide a number of interventions and activities to support pupils to make up education missed as a result of the pandemic.
Pupil wellbeing	Some pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. We will continue to support pupils if they are finding the situation difficult in any way.
School workforce	Clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) people are no longer advised to shield but may wish to take extra precautions to protect themselves, and to follow the practical steps set out in the CEV guidance to minimise their risk of exposure to the virus. Staff in schools who are CEV should currently attend their place of work if they cannot work from home. DHSC will publish updated guidance before Step 4
School meals	We will continue to provide free school meal support to any pupils who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals and who are learning at home during term time.
Educational visits	Educational visits will continue and will be risk assessed depending on the nature of the visit.
Extra-curricular activities	Before and after school clubs will resume.