

Policy for Carrying Out Speech and Language Therapy sessions in school in the Context of COVID-19 Pandemic

Having first established that face to face contact is necessary and having completed the RCSLT risk assessments these are the mitigations and protocols for Sarah Kelly to carry out face to face Speech and Language Therapy in your school. These are in line with the current government and RCSLT guidelines (*last reviewed September 2021*)

School Setting

1. What are the risks?

COVID-19 infection and transmission

2. Who might be harmed and how?

- Children, school staff, parents/carers and other members of the household or bubble
- Sarah and other members of her household or bubble

While no party will knowingly put the other at risk, there is the risk of transmitting the virus asymptotically

3. What action should be taken to control the risk?

Sarah will not visit if she or anyone in her household or bubble has symptoms of or a positive test result for COVID-19 and is self isolating.

The school will ensure that Sarah is made aware of any positive test result within the school.

If Sarah receives a positive test result for COVID-19 following her visit, she will inform the school directly.

Sarah will follow the IPC policies and protocols of your school that are already in place to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 such as hand washing policies, movement around the site etc.

Sarah is carrying out twice weekly asymptomatic testing and, as a registered healthcare professional, has received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccination.

In addition to these, there are those specific to the delivery Speech and Language Therapy:

- Sarah will reduce movement between settings to reduce the risk of transmission to other settings; where she does move between settings on the same day, this will be discussed with the school
- Sarah will work in consultation with school staff to plan which children to see in any one session to prevent the risk of transmission between existing 'bubbles' in the school.
- The setting will provide Sarah with access to a suitable, well ventilated space to work in.

- Sarah will wash/sanitise her hands prior to working with each child and at the end of each session.
- The child will be asked to wash his/her hands or use hand sanitiser at the beginning and end of the session.
- Healthcare and RCSLT guidelines state that where 2m distance cannot be maintained, Sarah should use PPE as appropriate (see below)*

There are considerations specific to the delivery of Speech and Language Therapy such as aerosol generation when articulating speech sounds. Sarah will use PPE appropriate to the session which may include a surgical face mask type I or II, or FFP3 mask, screen or visor. **NB: It is not always possible to carry out speech and language therapy whilst wearing a face mask as this impedes communication, audibility and the necessary visual cues when articulating speech sounds. If Sarah is unable to wear a face mask for this reason, all other mitigations must be in place and Sarah will use a visor and/or screen. It is important to note, however, that a visor does not provide the same level of protection. Clear face masks have not been approved for this use at time of writing.*

- Where PPE is used, Sarah will clean or dispose of and change this between working with each child.
- Sarah will reduce, as far as possible, the equipment that a child will touch and will only use items that can be cleaned/sanitised after use.
- Furniture and equipment will be wiped down with disinfectant sanitiser between each child.
- All equipment will be washed and sanitised again once Sarah has returned to her office.
- If Sarah needs to share notes or resources, she will send these in an email following the session
- Sarah will keep a record of the children she has worked with during the session in line with the requirements for the government's Test Track and Trace programme.

Consent for Speech and Language Therapy to take place in school during the COVID-19 pandemic

Name of school _____

I have read and understand the COVID-19 risk assessment and policy provided by Sarah Kelly
Yes / No*

By signing below, I am giving consent for:

- Sarah Kelly to carry out Speech and Language Therapy sessions in school
- Sarah Kelly to conduct sessions without a face mask only where other mitigations are in place

Signature of member of school SMT _____

Print name _____ Date _____

**please delete as appropriate*