

HOPS Hazard Assessment
Toilet Access and Use in response to Covid 19
Updated for New Academic Year August 2020 to July 2021

This hazard assessment reviews the advice provided to the education sector from the government on Toilet Use. The following is the latest advice from government. Other stakeholder's advice has also been reviewed, to include unions and the LA.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Guidance for full opening – schools

Published 2 July 2020

Under – Section 1

Point 4 Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach

- different groups don't need to be allocated their own toilet blocks, but toilets will need to be cleaned regularly and pupils must be encouraged to clean their hands thoroughly after using the toilet

Point 5 Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible

- Maintaining distinct groups or 'bubbles' that do not mix makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate, and keep that number as small as possible.
- However, the use of small groups restricts the normal operation of schools and presents both educational and logistical challenges, including the cleaning and use of shared spaces, such as playgrounds, boarding houses, dining halls, and toilets, and the provision of specialist teaching. This is the case in both primary and secondary schools, but is particularly difficult in secondary schools.

Assessment of Risk and Factors Considered

By applying the above government advice (and common sense) to our setting we have produced an assessment of how we will manage 'Toilet Access and Use'.

This is set out below. This is being adopted to help to reduce risks from covid-19 transmission. It is expected that it may take a number of days to become comfortable with these new arrangements.

The guidance is quite clear settings should minimise where possible the contact between classes. However, the guidance also states it is recognised that schools do not have the provision to provide separate toilets for each class. We need to make every effort to ensure the children use the same toilet and very importantly wash their hands.

The guidance is equally clear on the significance and importance of hand washing. Teaching staff will need to ensure that this becomes part of every child's daily routine and that it happens when they ask to go to the toilet during classes. This will need regularly reinforcing by teaching staff. See Hand Washing Assessment

