

**Ambitious About Autism**  
**Risk Assessment – Coronavirus (COVID-19)**  
**Risk Assessment – The Rise School Sixth Form**

## Definitions

“AaA” means Ambitious About Autism and Ambitious About Autism Schools Trust.

## Clarifications

The purpose of this Risk Assessment is to outline risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the actions AaA is taking to manage these risks, specifically for **The Rise School**. This particular risk assessment is to cover a specific AaA setting and is intended to cover any person entering that setting, regardless of whether they are a pupil, parent or guardian, member of staff, volunteer, partner, visitor or contractor.

Separate, more specific risk assessments have been drawn up for specific groups of staff, as well as pupils and learners. This risk assessment is different in the sense that it is intended to cover the access to and generally understood activities within particular setting or location.

AaA recognizes that some staff are classified as per the government guidance as being particularly vulnerable. Where appropriate and in accordance with government guidance, separate, individual risk assessment and subsequent adjustments will be made for these staff.

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**THIS RISK ASSESMENT MUST BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GENERIC “SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STAFF” RISK ASSESMENT**  
**(\*Please see footnote on final page of this document)**

**THIS RISK ASSESMENT IS REVIEWED MONTHLY AND WILL THEREFORE CAPTURE ANY ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURES DEEMED NECESSARY AS THEY ARISE.**

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## 1.0 Background

A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. Typical symptoms include fever and a cough that may progress to a severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.

Generally, coronavirus can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer, and chronic lung disease. Novel coronavirus (2019-nCov now known as COVID-19) is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China.

Viruses constantly change through mutation, and so the emergence of new variants is an expected occurrence and not in itself a cause for concern; SARS-CoV-2 is no exception. A diversification of SARS-CoV-2 due to evolution and adaptation processes has been observed globally.

While most emerging mutations will not have a significant impact on the spread of the virus, some mutations or combinations of mutations may provide the virus with a selective advantage, such as increased transmissibility or the ability to evade the host immune response. In such cases, these variants could increase the risk to human health and are considered to be variants of concern. AaA will continue to monitor and react to all new variants of the coronavirus and implement specific controls measures where necessary.

A vaccination programme for all staff was introduced in February 2021 and staff continue to be encouraged to take up vaccinations as they are offered.

Routine lateral flow testing is carried out at home by any staff working in our settings and continues as per government guidelines. A [separate risk assessment](#) is in place for testing.

On 26 November 2021, WHO designated the variant B.1.1.529 (Omicron) a variant of concern on the advice of WHO's Technical Advisory Group. This decision was based on the evidence presented to the TAG-VE that Omicron has several mutations that may have an impact on how it behaves, for example, on how easily it spreads or the severity of illness it causes.

EU's public health agency warned that Omicron could cause more than half of all new COVID-19 infections in Europe within the next few months, evidence was emerging, however, that vaccines still appear to offer protection against serious illness.

Our current guidance remains in place. In addition to this, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age. You will be contacted directly and told to isolate by the Track and Trace service and must inform the relevant Head or ELT member immediately if you are in this situation.

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All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are strongly encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters, if they have not already done so. Vaccines are the best way we can protect our pupils/learners and each other against COVID-19. They help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them.

Face coverings must now be worn again in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils/learners aged 11 and above, unless they are exempt.

## 2.0 Latest Information

### General NHS / PHE / GOV COVID-19 Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/primary-care/about-covid-19/>

### NHS COVID-19 Symptoms

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/community-social-care-ambulance/symptoms-of-covid-19-and-medical-advice/>

### NHS COVID-19 Home testing guidance

[Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[COVID-19 home test: step-by-step guide \(adults and children\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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### 3.0 Risk Assessment

Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust			
Description of task and specific area being assessed			
Coronavirus (2019-NCoV) – The Rise School Sixth Form, Sir Joseph Banks Building, West Thames College, London Road, Isleworth, TW7 4HS			
Name of Assessor: Leigh-Anne Sullivan		Reviewed by: Helen Ralston	Date of Assessment: 19/06/2020
Position Held: School Business Manager		Position Held: Head of School	Planned Review Date: Reviewed monthly
Activity or Area	Risk Identified	Persons at Risk	Control Measures (Mitigating actions and measures taken by AaA)
Communal areas of the school: Corridors, entrance,	Risk of contracting COVID19 from pupils, colleagues, or others within the teaching & learning environment.	Staff, pupils, visitors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ensure that all staff actively subscribe to the principles of social distancing / handwashing / cleanliness / appropriate use and application of PPE / use of common resources / use of office accommodation.</li> <li>2) All building users are to clean their hands upon arrival at the school, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing.</li> <li>3) All building users are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes, and nose.</li> <li>4) Use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it').</li> <li>5) Ensure that bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day.</li> <li>6) Display up-to-date posters encouraging regular and proper handwashing throughout the provision.</li> <li>7) Use prominent signage to stop ANYONE exhibiting symptoms from entering the provision or college settings.</li> <li>8) Provide high alcohol hard surface wipes/disinfectant spray, for assigned staff to wipe down high contact areas within assigned zones.</li> <li>9) Staff and pupils must wear face masks while in communal areas.</li> <li>10) All members of staff when working from provision are required to have a radio with them at all times if they require support.</li> <li>11) Ensure a strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to frequently touched surfaces and bathrooms.</li> <li>12) Restrict contractor attendance to critical and compliance-related work only, ensuring that said work is undertaken over weekends or after hours where at all possible.</li> <li>13) Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows and propping open doors wherever possible.</li> </ol>

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Classrooms	Risk of pupils / staff contracting COVID19 – Number of staff and pupils	Staff, pupils	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Posters within classrooms to remind pupils and staff to keep distance and wash hands regularly.</li> <li>2) Hand sanitiser, antibacterial wipes/disinfectant spray, high alcohol content device wipes &amp; face masks are located in each room in use.</li> <li>3) All members of staff when working from the provision are required to have a radio with them at all times if they require support.</li> <li>4) Ensure a strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to frequently touched surfaces.</li> <li>5) Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows and propping open doors wherever possible.</li> <li>6) The school will align itself with the roll-out of CO2 detectors as per government guidance, and will arrange their installation as they arrive.</li> </ol>
Specialist Classroom – Common Room, with Gym equipment	Risk of pupils / staff contracting COVID19 – Number of staff and pupils	Staff, pupils	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) All members of staff when working from the provision are required to have a radio with them at all times if they require support.</li> <li>2) Hand sanitiser, antibacterial wipes/disinfectant spray, high alcohol content device wipes &amp; face masks are located in each room in use. Face Coverings are not required in classrooms.</li> <li>3) Ensure a strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to frequently touched surfaces and computer equipment.</li> <li>4) Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows and propping open doors wherever possible</li> <li>5) Equipment is not to be shared unless it has been cleaned and disinfected between use.</li> <li>6) The school will align itself with the roll-out of CO2 detectors as per government guidance, and will arrange their installation as they arrive.</li> </ol>
Quiet Room	Risk of pupils / staff contracting COVID19 – Number of staff and pupils	Staff, pupils	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Posters within classrooms to remind pupils and staff to keep distance and wash hands regularly.</li> <li>2) All members of staff when working from school are required to have a radio with them at all times if they require support.</li> <li>3) Hand sanitiser, antibacterial wipes/disinfectant spray, high alcohol content device wipes &amp; face masks are located in each room in use.</li> <li>4) Regular handwashing incorporated into timetable.</li> <li>5) Ensure a strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to frequently touched surfaces and computer equipment.</li> <li>6) Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows and propping open doors wherever possible.</li> </ol>

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Kitchenette	Risk of contracting COVID19 from surfaces within the kitchen / canteen facilities.	Staff, pupils	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ensure strict and regular kitchen cleaning regime, with particular attention to surfaces and equipment people can touch.</li> <li>2) Ensure very good supplies of soap to support and encourage good handwashing practice.</li> <li>3) Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows and propping open doors wherever possible.</li> </ol>
Quiet Room – now being used as the COVID-19 Assessment Room for people displaying symptoms.	Risk of pupils / staff contracting COVID19 -Contamination	Staff, Pupils, visitors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Display up-to-date posters on door: COVID19 Assessment room. Do not enter unless exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or undergoing a COVID19 test</li> <li>2) Staff supplied with adequate and appropriate PPE, located in the medical room, before entering the COVID19 Assessment room to take a suspected symptomatic individual's temperature or COVID test</li> <li>3) If exhibiting symptoms, the individual is to remain in the COVID19 Assessment room, SLT are alerted of symptoms and arrangements are made for the individual to leave the site, self-isolate for at least 10 days from when the symptoms started arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19.</li> <li>4) Ensure the room is thoroughly cleaned using disinfectant and disposable cloths, and well ventilated after an individual has entered and used this room.</li> <li>5) All PPE worn is to be removed, placed in a bin liner, double bagged and left for 72 hours before being taken to the bin shed.</li> <li>6) Ensure a strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to frequently touched surfaces.</li> <li>7) Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows and propping open doors wherever possible.</li> </ol>
Office Spaces which include the use of the reception as the medical room	Risk of pupils and staff contracting COVID19 from other pupils / colleagues / others within the office environment.	Staff, pupils	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Display up-to-date posters encouraging regular and proper handwashing.</li> <li>2) All members of staff when working from school are required to have a radio with them at all times if they require support.</li> <li>3) Provide hand sanitiser, antibacterial wipes/disinfectant spray and high alcohol content device wipes within the office space.</li> <li>4) Phones and computers are to be cleaned routinely throughout the day.</li> <li>5) Ensure a strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to frequently touched surfaces.</li> <li>6) Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows and propping open doors wherever possible.</li> <li>7) Staff supplied with adequate and appropriate PPE to support with first aid and medication administration and to work alongside the First Aid &amp; Health Care Policy.</li> </ol>

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Staff Room	Risk of contracting COVID19 from surfaces within the kitchen / canteen facilities and overcrowding.	Staff, Pupils, visitors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) All members of staff when working from school are required to have a radio with them at all times if they require support.</li> <li>2) Hand sanitiser, antibacterial wipes/disinfectant spray, high alcohol content device wipes located in each room in use.</li> <li>3) Phones and computers are to be cleaned routinely throughout the day.</li> <li>4) Ensure a strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to frequently touched surfaces.</li> <li>5) Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows and propping open doors wherever possible.</li> <li>6)</li> </ol>
Trips & outings in the community with Pupils and Learners	Risk of contracting COVID19 from pupils, colleagues, or others within the teaching & learning environment.	Staff, Pupils, visitors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Using the school minibus, all staff &amp; pupils must continue wearing face coverings and adhere to, social distance where possible. Windows should be opened in the minibus for fresh air and good ventilation.</li> <li>2) Walking during trips and outings, maintain social distancing and wear face coverings when entering buildings.</li> <li>3) Take spare disposable masks, gloves and aprons for first aid and if COVID-19 symptoms are exhibited.</li> <li>4) Sanitising and washing hands frequently throughout the day.</li> <li>5) If someone gets symptoms – contact the school immediately, place the pupil in an area with no direct contact with others, with ventilation, until the school are able to arrange for the person to get collected.</li> </ol>
Use of toilets and bathrooms	Risk of pupils / staff contracting COVID19 from surfaces within toilet / bathroom facilities.	Staff, Pupils, visitors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ensure strict and regular bathroom cleaning regime, with particular attention to surfaces people can touch.</li> <li>2) Ensure regular emptying and replacement of sanitary-related disposal units.</li> <li>3) Ensure ample supply of bathroom consumables and cleaning consumables.</li> <li>4) Ensure very good supplies of soap to support and encourage good handwashing practice.</li> <li>5) Ensure that posters, specifically promoting handwashing are displayed prominently in all toilets and bathrooms.</li> </ol>
Physical Intervention	Risk of contracting COVID19 from pupils or staff whilst being in sustained physical intervention	Staff, Pupils	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Continue to implement all established practise around P.I being a last resort - all proactive strategies are in place (including use of known distractors and preferred items) to minimise risk of needing to use physical intervention</li> <li>2) Ensure staff who are attending an escalation adhere to PPE guidance (e.g. Their choice to wear a mask/gloves)</li> </ol>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Staff who attend escalations may choose to bring a change of clothes to school.</li> <li>4) Consider using visor if pupils might spit, if and only if appropriate.</li> </ul>
Food Management	Risk of contracting COVID19 from pupils or staff whilst working with food and during mealtimes.	Staff, Pupils, visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ensure that staff supporting pupils and learners during mealtimes or food-related learning activities are supplied with adequate and appropriate PPE and wash their hands regularly.</li> <li>2) Use disposable cutlery / crockery in pupil eating areas across all bubbles and dining locations.</li> <li>3) Remove / rearrange furniture if practical and possible to ensure adequate space is allowed between pupils and learning activities.</li> <li>4) Ensure that food is not left out and / or exposed for extended periods. Unfinished food should be promptly discarded.</li> <li>5) Not allow the sharing of food between pupils, learners and the staff supporting them.</li> </ul>
Visitors & Contractors on site	Risk of contracting COVID19 from pupils, staff, visitors or contractors.	Staff, Pupils, visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Severely restrict external visitors from entering the education settings. Any and all visitors must have a critical reason for entering the building.</li> <li>2) Restrict contractor attendance to critical and compliance-related work only, ensuring that said work is undertaken over weekends or after hours where at all possible</li> <li>3) All visitors and contractors must sign in at Reception using the Inventory software.</li> <li>4) Visitors and contractors are expected to maintain social distancing measures within the building wherever practicable.</li> <li>5) Visitors and contractors are to use the visitor toilet located in the foyer area only.</li> <li>6) Visitors and contractors are only able to work on site if they have the required PPE. PPE will be provided by AaA including gloves and face masks wherever possible.</li> <li>7) All contractors on site must have completed a AaAST Permit to Work.</li> <li>8) Contractors &amp; visitors to wear face coverings in communal areas such as corridors, toilets at all times.</li> </ul>
Development of symptoms or contracting COVID19.	Risk of infecting colleagues / pupils / learners with COVID19.	Staff, Pupils, visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The Rise will instigate its start of term testing for CHYP as it did in the last academic year and thereafter pupils will be encouraged to test from home, just like staff. AC and THS continue to have very low numbers of CHYP who are testing.</li> <li>2) If anyone exhibits symptoms, they are to alert the SLT immediately and be taken to the COVID19 Assessment room.</li> <li>3) Guidance and procedures in place within AaA for staff to manage the onset of suspected symptoms, or indeed contracting COVID19.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://ambitiousaboutautism.sharepoint.com/sites/CoronaVirus/">https://ambitiousaboutautism.sharepoint.com/sites/CoronaVirus/</a></p>

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			4) School must follow the <a href="#">COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance</a> .
Development of negative mental health symptoms			<a href="#">PLEASE REFER TO THE GENERIC "SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STAFF" RISK ASSESMENT</a>
Staff may have questions around COVID-19 or AaA Management or procedures around COVID			<a href="#">PLEASE REFER TO THE GENERIC "SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STAFF" RISK ASSESMENT</a>
New strain of COVID-19, identified in December 2021, a new faster transmissible strain of COVID-19 called omicron	Catching the new strain of COVID-19	All staff & pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of mass testing in schools and colleges from January 2021, AaA are following the new guidance, which is set out in the guidance below</li> <li>• <a href="#">asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges</a></li> <li>• A separate risk assessment is in place for this activity and can be found at <a href="#">COVID19 Testing TRS.doc</a></li> <li>• All CEV Staff in will have had their personal risk assessments reviewed before returning to the school after easter term.</li> <li>• All CV staff will have their RA updated and shared with them before returning to working in the School.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19</a></li> <li>• AaA implemented a roll out of vaccinations for staff in Feb 2021, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jabs are planned for late April/early May</li> <li>• AaA have implemented twice weekly home testing programme, specific plan can be found here <a href="#">TRS Service Testing Planning Summary - March 2021.docx (sharepoint.com)</a></li> </ul>

**Additional, related Risk assessments.**

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Should parties outside of Ambitious About Autism or Ambitious About Autism School Trust require copies of additional Risk Assessments to which this Risk Assessment relates, please request this from Justin Davies, Health and safety manager, [jdavies@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk](mailto:jdavies@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk)

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**Leigh-Anne Sullivan / Justin Davies**

School Business Manager / Head of Property & IT

Version 1.13 updated 25/08/2021 Mark Dixon

Risk Assessment done: 19 June 2020 by Leigh-Anne Sullivan

Review date: 4th January 2022

Last updated: 4th December 2021

Links last checked: 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021

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