



Risk Assessment Update

8.12.20 Portesham CE VA Primary School

Since returning to school in September, ventilation within school has been a key line of defence and support; keeping school 'Covid Secure'. However, as the temperature has dropped, we are faced with the challenge of keeping the children and staff warm during the day.

To acknowledge the change in temperature we have already reduced the number of doors open within school (class external doors are closed) as per 2.11.20 update. This is supported by the natural process of ventilation being more efficient during the colder months.

CIBSE COVID-19 ventilation guidance

For naturally ventilated spaces, windows and vents are often the mechanism for providing outside air. In the colder months, the natural forces that drive air through these openings, wind and indoor/outdoor temperature difference are greater, so they do not need to be opened as wide

Despite these amendments, this alone has not sufficiently raised the temperature within school, even with the heating on. As a result we are now suspending all uniform expectations for pupils within school and also the dress code policy for staff to allow for pupils and staff to dress warmly. There remains a clear expectation of appropriate clothing being worn for school and this has been communicated within the newsletter and by email to all staff.

In addition, classes are no longer expected to have all windows open but must have at least half of all windows open to allow for a constant turnover of air within the class setting. This decision has been taken in consultation with staff, governors and following advice from Dorset County Council.

These amendments take effect from the 8.12.20 until further notice and will be reviewed in accordance with the latest guidance from the DFE, HSE and DCH.

These amendments have been ratified by: FGB 8.12.20