

COVID FAQs

1. Why are you testing the pupils when they return?
We want to identify any pupils who may have Covid-19 but not have any symptoms, this is in line with the Government's instruction for all schools to carry out asymptomatic testing. By taking part in this testing process you will help us to stop an outbreak spreading through the school by removing any positive pupils who may spread the virus in the school community without realising it.
2. How often should my child take a home lateral flow test?
The government has asked school pupils to test twice a week at home until at least the end of September. Recommended days are before pupils attend school on Monday and Thursday.
3. Who should I report the result of the home test to?
Please report the test result to the NHS whether it is negative, positive or void. If you have a positive result please let the school know.
4. What should I do if someone in the family gets a positive result from a home test?
The person who has had the positive result needs to book to go to a test centre for a PCR test and isolate until he or she get the results. The rest of the family do not need to isolate if they are under 18 or have been fully vaccinated. People who have not been vaccinated do need to isolate as a contact.
5. My child has a runny nose what should I do?
You should give them a lateral flow test. If the test is negative, they are unlikely to have COVID-19. The government identifies a new continuous cough, a high temperature or loss of taste or smell as key symptoms of Covid-19.
6. A member of our household is waiting for a PCR test result can my child attend school?
Yes, children do not need to isolate if they are close contacts.
7. A member of our household has COVID-19 can my child still attend school?
Yes, children do not need to isolate if they are close contacts. They will be asked to take a PCR test in case they are asymptomatic, but do not have to stay at home waiting for the result. Please continue to monitor them for any of the symptoms of Covid and ask them to take a home test if they become unwell.
8. My child is anxious about returning to school can they study on line instead?
No, all children are expected to return to full time face-to-face education.
9. My child wants to wear a mask, are they allowed?
The government guidance is that masks should not be worn in school at the moment and we think that it is easier to learn if you can communicate fully. If you feel that you would like you child to wear a mask please contact the school and we will discuss the individual cases.
10. My child is anxious about Covid-19 how will the school help?
We will explain carefully to our pupils all the steps we are putting in place to keep them safe; improved ventilation, extra cleaning, hand sanitising and regular testing. We will remind pupils of our responsibilities to keep each other safe and we will take a very firm position with any pupils who do not meet the expectations. If you are concerned that you child is anxious about school please contact your child's progress leader.
11. We have just returned from a holiday overseas what should I do?
Please check and follow the quarantine advice for the country you have visited. If you need to isolate on your return and your child cannot start school at the beginning of term please let us know as soon as possible.

12. Will you still have bubbles in school?

No, the Government has removed the need for pupils to stay in their own year groups and they will now travel around the school to their teacher's designated classrooms to have their lessons.

13. Where will my child eat now?

We have removed the allocated year group dining areas. All pupils can purchase sandwiches, sausage rolls, Paninis and other items from the downstairs area in the dining room or from the kiosk outside the atrium. Hot meals can be purchased and eaten in our upstairs dining area in the school canteen. Drinks can be purchased from all locations and water jugs are provided in the dining hall.

14. Will my child have to use the toilet facilities in their year group area?

No, the requirement for 'bubbles' has been removed and pupils can use any of the school toilet facilities before and after school and during break and lunch times. Only the facilities on the main school corridor will be opened during lesson times.

15. Will the school be sending close contacts home as you did before if there is a positive case in school?

No. Contact tracing is now the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace who will contact anyone who needs to isolate if they have been in contact with a person who has tested positive or who is waiting for a confirmation PCR result. Pupils under 18 and fully vaccinated adults do not need to isolate.

16. Will you still have all the windows open at school?

Ventilation is one of the Governments key requirements for schools to help clear any particles of Covid, which may be in the air. Windows and doors will be open to help this and, whilst we will try to keep the school as warm as possible during the cooler months, it may be necessary for your child to wear a jumper under their blazer.