

Advice to All Parents – COVID-19 situation

Dear Parents,

I'm writing to let you know that a number of people within our school community have recently tested positive for coronavirus. So in line with government guidance, we will take action as a school to address this outbreak.

We know that you may find this concerning but the actions we will take are intended to help bring the situation under control, by reducing the opportunities for the infection to spread in school. Also, please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a relatively mild illness.

The actions we will take in school are designed to protect face-to-face education, minimise disruption and be proportionate to the risk. Your child should continue to attend school if they remain well, unless you are contacted individually to advise otherwise. This applies to all children, including those with special educational needs.

Actions in response to the outbreak

The school will bring in the following controls

- Providing extra opportunities for children to wash their hands during the day
- Increasing ventilation by moving some activities out of doors, where this is possible and weather allows
- Temporarily suspending group activities such as assemblies, performances, or activities which bring extra opportunities for mixing
- Increasing testing for specific groups associated with the outbreak. If this affects your child, you will be contacted separately to explain how this will be done and how often your child will be expected to test
- Wearing of face coverings for staff in communal areas / classrooms. This will initially be for two weeks, whilst we monitor the situation, and will then be reviewed.
- Limiting parental presence and other visitors to the school.
- Limiting movements in and out of school.
- Residential trips, other trips, performances, open days and spectator arrangements will be stopped until the outbreak is under control.
- Reintroducing “bubbles” in certain classes in the first instance, to minimise contact between different groups.

If the above actions do not bring the spread of the virus under control, we may consider attendance restrictions, such as sending home contacts in a particular group. Such action would be a last resort, subject to consultation with the local Director of Public Health, and would include remote education for any children whose attendance in school is restricted. I'll write to you again if this step becomes necessary.

Actions for parents and carers

Parents and carers can support the school's efforts to control the outbreak by:

1. Participating in regular LFD testing yourselves. You can pick up free LFD tests from pharmacies, some community facilities or local test sites – look here to [find test providers near you](#). Or you can get tests sent to your home either by ordering [online](#) or by ringing 119.
2. Getting a PCR test for your child if you are notified by NHS Test and Trace that your child is a close contact of a confirmed case (unless your child is aged 4 and under, when they are only advised to get a PCR test if the positive case is in their own household).
3. **Do not send your child to school and seek a PCR test promptly if they have symptoms of coronavirus, or if they test positive by a LFD test**
4. Being aware of and following key national guidance on [preventing the spread of infection](#)

I have written this update to inform you of the changing situation with regards to managing Covid-19 within schools. Schools have been advised that it is not necessary to inform parents of every future individual case of Covid-19 which is reported at school. However, please be assured that I am keeping a very close overview of the situation and if cases were to escalate, further controls would be promptly introduced to the school, in liaison with the local health protection team.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Cook