



12th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Covid19 Testing in Schools

I am writing to thank you for the support and understanding shown as we once again navigate the guidance and develop our provision based upon our staff capacity during this national emergency.

As you are aware, we have far fewer staff able to work on site, so we have had to prioritise our on-site provision offer around the guidance for children of critical workers and the most vulnerable.

Our staff team will continue to offer both face to face provision and supported home learning. The current on-site offer is the maximum we can make with current staffing levels. The situation will remain under constant review.

DFE update

In response to the ongoing situation, yesterday the DFE updated its guidance urging all parents and carers to “keep your child at home if you can.”

It continues to be extremely important that you continue to notify us if your child is displaying any Covid symptoms if they are timetabled in school. Your child must not attend if they display any of the key symptoms:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child develops symptoms, please self-isolate and contact the school or arrange a test through www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by dialing 119 to arrange the more sensitive and specific PCR test.

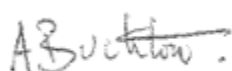
Testing in schools

We are now planning to set up the optional lateral flow testing for staff and have an initial run through with a small number of staff volunteers next week. The process will be reviewed and a decision then made regarding offering testing to all staff. We will update you in due course regarding our response to the optional testing of secondary aged pupils and will have a pack of information available about the tests which will include consent forms. Initially, any pupil testing will apply only to those pupils in year 7 and above who are receiving on-site provision.

We all hope that you are able to continue to keep well and safe and long for the time when our school communities can return to normal. We continue to work under the following principles:

1. The obligation to ensure the safety of pupils, parents and staff;
2. A commitment to the welfare and wellbeing of pupils and staff;
3. Approaching the planning task in a measured and deliberate way; and
4. Making the best possible decisions on the basis of the evidence we have, and within the constraints and parameters we face in our schools and trust – in particular the guidance and instruction from the DFE.

With best wishes



Andrew Buckton

Enable Trust CEO

