



## **SCHOOL OPERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC OUTBREAK**

**ALL SCHOOLS AND BUILDINGS**

**JULY 2021 onwards - REVISION 6**

## **POST July 19th 2021 – Restrictions relaxed**

The procedures previously applied throughout the pandemic have resulted in a significant reduction in the number of cases. In conjunction with the majority of people now having had at least one vaccination and the majority two, government restrictions have now been relaxed to allow all existing restrictions to be eased after July 19<sup>th</sup> 2021.

Although these restrictions have been relaxed, it remains the responsibility of the school to implement measures that are felt to be of benefit in continuing to reduce the spread of Covid-19 within the school community, especially our pupils, many of whom will remain vulnerable due to their health condition.

Therefore, some existing precautions will remain in place until the end of term.

## **July 2021 to end of term**

1. Class bubbles will continue as they have until the end of term to prevent disruption. These arrangements are well established and both staff and pupils are in good routines. Staff should continue to remain in their assigned bubble as much as possible and maintain a distance from others as far as they can.
2. Face coverings should be worn in communal areas such as corridors and when working close to someone (within 2m). This continues to set a good example for our pupils. Should the school experience a rise in cases, masks may be reintroduced for staff and pupils for a short time.
3. Cleaning and hygiene standards in classrooms will continue. Staff should continue to set a high standard in wiping down surfaces regularly, washing hands regularly and thoroughly and using hand sanitizer.
4. Regular Lateral Flow Testing will continue to be required for all staff and tests should be taken twice a week (Wednesday and Sunday) and the results forwarded to the school.
5. Anyone displaying symptoms should ensure they continue to take all medical advice and self-isolate as recommended until they have taken and received a negative result from a PCR test. Arrangements for Test and Trace will remain in place and staff should isolate as per the requirements and for the determined timescales.

Should there be any reason why an individual feels unable to comply with the above, they should contact a member of SLT before commencing work to discuss the matter further.

## **Summer Holiday Arrangements**

1. Bi-weekly Lateral Flow Testing may be suspended from July 23<sup>rd</sup> except for members of a summer school, or those on a 52-week work contract.
2. While regular testing is not required during the summer holidays, staff should complete a test on August 31<sup>st</sup> and submit this result to the online results portal prior to returning to school.

## **Likely Arrangements from September 2021**

From September 2021, the arrangements will potentially reduce further as no restrictions will be in place, following the removal of the need for bubbles in schools. These arrangements will not be fully confirmed until close to the return to school in September, but based on current advice and recommendations, will likely include the following:

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1. Classes will not teach in bubbles
2. Playtimes and lunchtimes will not be staggered
3. Staff Rooms will reopen
4. COVID-19 Testing for consenting students should take place during their first week back on school premises, one test on day one, with a second test being done three days later. These tests will now consist of a double nose swab, with throat swabs no longer being required. Weekly testing may be required but further guidance is required before arrangements are put in place.
5. Staff should continue to test weekly as they are doing now and should ensure they are able to provide evidence of a negative test prior to return to school after the Summer holidays, these results should be submitted to the school results system.
6. Hygiene standards will remain high; some arrangements that are in place to clean between bubbles will be removed as bubbles will no longer be in place.
7. Those with symptoms should obtain a PCR test before returning to work and should self-isolate until this is obtained.
8. All arrangements for Test and Trace and self-isolation will remain in place until advised otherwise.
9. Staff will be permitted to travel between classes and sites where this is necessary.
10. All staff who are home-working will return to their normal workplace.
11. Visitors will once again be permitted to school where a face-to-face meeting is needed.
12. Individual pupil risk assessments will continue to be made to identify any specific arrangements that may be needed.

Although the arrangements represent a relaxation of many of the existing precautions, staff will be expected to remain sensitive to the issues that still remain and wherever possible, should limit activities that are not deemed necessary as part of the day to day operation of the school.

**In the event that any of the arrangements or instructions are felt to be unclear or if clarification is needed, staff should not hesitate to contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team to highlight and discuss these issues.**