

21st September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Regarding misinformation about Covid 19 and schools

We are aware that there is some mis-information circling, particularly through social media, which may be causing some anxiety. It can sometimes be very difficult to tell what is accurate or reliable information, and so want to share with you some details which we hope will reassure you.

If you have any questions or concerns about coronavirus and your child's school, please contact your school to discuss this with them. You may also find this article from the BBC news website useful.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/53919867>

Vaccinations

There have been rumours that schools can give children a Corona Virus vaccine without your consent.

There is currently no vaccination available to protect against coronavirus (COVID-19). Any vaccinations given to children, including any that are usually given in a school setting require parental consent before children are able to receive the vaccination. Vaccinations are a safe and effective way to protect your child from a wide range of diseases. For more information on vaccinations, and why they are so important, please see

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/why-vaccination-is-safe-and-important/>.

Testing for coronavirus

It is important that anyone who has any symptoms of COVID-19 (a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) self-isolates at home and arranges a test quickly. This will prevent the virus from spreading to other people. You can arrange a test at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119. Testing can be carried out on children as well as adults, although parents and carers will need to arrange testing for their children. Schools will not test children for coronavirus, although they may in very rare circumstances be able to provide families with a testing kit for the family to take home and use.

Preventing spread of coronavirus in schools

Schools are taking many actions to reduce the risk of coronavirus spreading within the school. Details of these actions are available on your school website or from your school. These include keeping children in consistent 'bubbles', social distancing where possible, and regular handwashing with soap and water or with hand sanitiser. Washing hands often is an effective way to reduce spread of coronavirus. To make it easier for pupils and staff to wash hands regularly, many schools are providing hand sanitiser in handy locations. We encourage staff and students to use whichever method works best for **frequent** use. If there is a medical reason why your child is unable to use one of these methods, please discuss this with your school.



Temperature checks in schools

Government guidance for schools is that routinely taking the temperature of pupils is not recommended, as this is not a reliable method for identifying whether a pupil has coronavirus (COVID-19) or not. If your child has a temperature (feels hot to the touch – you do not need to measure the temperature) you must keep your child at home and arrange a test at.

www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119

Face coverings in schools

Government guidance for schools is that school leaders may recommend that staff, pupils and visitors in schools wear face coverings in communal areas where social distancing is difficult. Children in primary schools do not need to wear a face covering. In schools and colleges in areas with high transmission of the virus (called areas of national government intervention) face coverings should be worn by children (Year 7 upwards) and adults when moving in indoor communal spaces. This applies to areas such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain.

As with face coverings in shops and public transport, there are some groups of people who do not need to wear face coverings, and these same exceptions apply in schools and colleges.

Keeping in touch with parents and parental permission.

Schools will always stay in touch with parents to share any concerns about your child's health. Just as in all other cases where there is a concern about a child, children will not be held back in school at the end of the day for any reason without a parents prior knowledge. Parents should ensure that emergency contact details are always up to date so that they can be contacted if necessary, for example, if a child became unwell and needs to be collected and taken home.

Remember that we can all play our part to help stop the virus spreading:

- Wash your hands regularly or use hand sanitiser when unable to wash your hands
- Limit social contact by avoiding crowded spaces and maintaining social distancing
- Wear face coverings on public transport, in shops, and other enclosed spaces
- If you develop symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), go home and self-isolate and arrange for a test www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119

Kind regards,



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