



Ref: OperationalGuidanceUpdate/CTY/hll

30th August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Schools Covid-19 Operational Guidance Update

I hope that you and your family are well and you have enjoyed the opportunity to spend time together over the summer break.

As we approach the start of the new academic year, I wanted to update you on some of the changes to Covid-19 related guidance for schools provided by the Department for Education (DfE).

Whereas schools have previously been asked to 'balance' educational provision with management of virus transmission, it now states that 'our priority is for you to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all students.' With this being said, we will aim to give students as 'normal' an experience as possible, with full access to our broad and balanced curriculum and wider opportunities, whilst keeping certain measures in place that will help to minimise risks as follows:

- **Hand Sanitising** - Students will continue to be expected to wash or sanitise their hands regularly on entrance and exit to their classrooms and prior to social times
- **Ventilation** – We will continue to maximise ventilation in classrooms and around school to increase the flow of fresh air
- **Regular Cleaning** - We will continue our programme of regular cleaning throughout the school using appropriate cleaning products as guided by Public Health
- **Secondary Student Testing** - We will continue to actively encourage the use of twice-weekly LFD home tests for secondary students

In addition to the changes to the DfE's focus for school, I also wanted to share with you the changes to requirements for self-isolation, track and tracing and our contingency 'Outbreak Management Plan'.

Children with Covid-19 symptoms

In the event that your child develops Covid-19 symptoms, they should self-isolate and a PCR test should be booked. If the test result is positive then your child should self-isolate for the time period stipulated by NHS Test & Trace.

Whether the result is negative or positive, **no other member of the household, or close contacts need to isolate** as long as one of the following criteria applies:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Track & tracing of close contacts

Schools are no longer responsible for the tracking and tracing of close contacts. NHS Test & Trace are responsible for identifying and informing close contacts. In extreme circumstances, schools may be asked to assist with the identification of close contacts and we will liaise with NHS Test & Trace where this is needed.

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In the event that your child has been a close contact of someone who has tested positive, NHS Test & Trace will contact you and advise that your child has a PCR test.

Your child **does not need to self-isolate** whilst awaiting the results of the test and should **attend school as normal** unless they test positive or develop Covid-19 symptoms.

Outbreak Management Plan

Whilst the aim nationally is to keep as many students in school as possible, there may be occasions where further actions are needed to protect our school community. These measures are a contingency, in the form of our Outbreak Management Plan and will be used as a last resort, where we are directed by Public Health and/or the Local Authority to do so. The plan may be needed where there are a significant number of cases within a given year group, class or across the school, or where the local picture changes.

Measures within the plan may include one or more of the following:

- **Face Coverings** - reintroduction of face coverings in communal spaces and/or classrooms
- **Shielding** - reintroduction of shielding for students or staff who are identified as clinically vulnerable
- **Closure of bubbles** - groups of students, whether this be close contacts, classes or year groups, required to self-isolate
- **Minimising certain activities** - cancellation or minimisation of activities such as educational trips/visits, open days, transition visits or parents' evenings
- **Attendance restrictions** - short-term periods where attendance of students is restricted and remote learning resumes

Remote Learning Policy & Procedures:

Whilst face-to-face, high quality education is our focus, there may still be occasions where remote learning is necessary for individuals or groups of students. Our updated policy and procedures, reflecting the changes, can be found on the school website <https://bit.ly/2WFFN9Z>

The plans and information within this letter are based on the current DfE guidance for schools: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance>. As always, we will continue to adapt plans based on any updated guidance on a National or local level.

Secondary Testing Reminder

I would like to remind secondary parents/carers that all secondary students should complete two Lateral Flow Tests within our school testing centre. The first of these tests will be completed on Thursday 2nd or Friday 3rd September, with time slots allocated to each form group as follows:

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The Grange Academy

Latham Avenue, Runcom WA7 5DX

Mr I Critchley - Principal BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

Tel: 01928 562660

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Thursday 2 nd September	
Form Group	Allocated Time
7CMC	9:00am
7DAE	9:20am
7EVA	9:40am
7FRL	10:20am
7GII	10:40am
7MCU	11:00am
7SCH	11:20am
11COP	12:30pm
11CRZ	12:45pm
11MCG	1:00pm
11MCN	1:15pm
11PAI	1:30pm

Friday 3 rd September	
Form Group	Allocated Time
10CLN	9:00am
10FOS	9:15am
10MNY (9WNG)	9:30am
10OCA	10:00am
9ALN	10:30am
9CLR	10:45am
9KNI	11:00am
9LIG	11:15am
9OGN	11:30am
8DOY (7RLG)	12:00pm
8DUN	12:15pm
8ELT	12:30pm
8GRC	12:45pm

If you haven't yet given consent for your child to carry out their Lateral Flow Tests in the school testing centre, please complete the online form which can be found on our website: <https://bit.ly/2WnbMfi>

Students do not need to attend school in their uniform during these days. Please can we ask parents/carers to wait in the car park or on the front plaza, rather than entering the school building.

School Opening

Finally, a reminder that **ALL** students should return on **Monday 6th September**. Children attending reception will have been contacted separately about their start date and time.

Secondary students should arrive through the main entrance for an 8.30am start. Primary students should arrive through the main entrance for an 8.40am start; we are keeping the same entrance protocols for primary students.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Mr Critchley
Principal

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