



WILLIAM HARDING SCHOOL  
Aim high... Work hard... Be kind...

WILLIAM HARDING SCHOOL  
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Head Teacher: Miss T Cotchin BA(Hons) PGCE NPQH



28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear parents and families,

**Re: February COVID updates and information**

The Government have released updated COVID guidance which we have looked through today as a Senior Leadership Team. Please read below for the summary of changes which affect our school.

**The school day**

Assemblies will resume for our pupils as well as mixing beyond their year group at break at lunchtimes where necessary. We will be reintroducing parental onsite events as we move through the term – at this late point parents evening will remain fully virtual. Please see future letters about these events for your ease.

**Attendance**

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school. All children and staff travelling to England must adhere to government travel advice in travel to England from another country during coronavirus (COVID-19). Parents travelling abroad should bear in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return.

**Positive COVID 19 and isolation**

Whilst there is no longer a legal requirement for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) infection to self-isolate, however if you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test result, the public health advice is to ***stay at home and avoid contact with other people***. The guidance is clear that pupils should not attend the setting if they have symptoms and this includes Pre-school pupils.

We wish all pupils to attend school, however if they have confirmed or suspected COVID-19, we will request that you keep the pupil at home. If needed, we will take the decision to keep our school community safe by refusing entry to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Pupils who test positive will need to isolate for 10 days unless they have two negative test results from day 6 onwards.

For pupils who display symptoms whilst at school, our current procedures remain the same where we will move the pupil to an isolated place in the school, possibly outside if weather permits. You will be expected to collect them and order a PCR test.

**Our School Values are: Inclusion, Perseverance, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility and Collaboration.**



Close contacts of a positive case are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended. Please see separate letter '[COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts](#)'.

### Control measures

For your ease the full information is in a separate document '[Control measures March 2022](#)'. An overview of our measures will include;

- Continue to ensure pupils clean their hands regularly
- 'Catch it, bin it, kill it,' approach – our orange bins will remain in place
- Maintaining cleaning regimes
- Keeping areas ventilated
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases
- Encourage coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination for staff
- Risk assessments - we must comply with health and safety law and therefore we will put in place proportionate control measures and regularly review and update our risk assessments.

### Asymptomatic testing

From 21 February, all staff including Preschool staff will not be expected to continue taking part in regular asymptomatic testing and COVID-19 will be increasingly managed in line with other infectious diseases through public health guidance.

### Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised for staff and visitors around our school. This may be reviewed in light of an outbreak.

### Remote education

We will support those pupils who are self-isolating because they have tested positive to learn from home if they are well enough. Therefore, our remote learning offer will remain through Dojo for Years 1 – 6, for EYFS this will be through Tapestry and Home learning documents on the website.

### Stepping measures up and down

We have contingency plans outlining how we would operate if we need to take extra measures in exceptional circumstances. Measures affecting education and childcare may still be necessary in some circumstances as we move into the next phase of our response, for example:

- to help manage severe operational impacts or identified health risks of a COVID19 outbreak within a setting
- as part of a package of measures responding to a variant of concern or extremely high prevalence of COVID-19
- to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

When the thresholds are reached, we will review and reinforce the hygiene and ventilation measures we already have in place. We will consider whether to seek additional public health advice or contact the DfE helpline.

Actions could include:

- Limiting residential educational visits, open days, transition days and parental attendance in settings
- Moving to remote learning for some groups of pupils following public health advice in extreme cases of operational disruption to staffing
- Reintroducing masks and testing for staff
- Limiting mixing across groups such as assemblies, lunches, streaming of groups

Yours faithfully,  
Miss Cotchin  
Head teacher

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