



Believe, Succeed, Together

Covid-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

January 2022

Contents

1.0 Attendance	3
2.0 System of Controls.....	4
3.0 Covid-19 Response - Staff.....	7
4.0 Covid-19 Response - Pupils.....	8
5.0 Educational Provision	9
6.0 Wellbeing Provision	10

1.0 Attendance

1.1 Are all pupils expected to attend school?

Yes. The Government's [Operational Guidance](#) states the following in respect to attendance:

'School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school'.

The Academy's target for all pupils is to achieve an attendance of **100%** to afford them the best opportunity to fulfil their potential.



% Attendance	Description
100%	Excellent
98.0-99.9%	Good
96.0-97.9%	Average
<96.0%	Below Average

To facilitate the above target, from September, the Academy resumed its pre-pandemic catch-up policy for Key Stage 4 pupils in accordance with section 1.3 of the [Attendance Policy](#) (below).

*'When a pupil is absent from school, they **must** catch up with any work missed. This will be monitored using a 'catch-up form' administered and coordinated by the Attendance Support Coordinator.*

Pupils with an attendance of 96+% will be permitted 5 school days to catch up with any work missed. This will be recorded on a catch-up form and signed off by the classroom teacher. The Attendance Support Coordinator will complete the final 'sign off' to confirm that all worked missed has been caught up. Pupils who do not catch up within 5 school days, will be directed into 'catch up sessions' during break, lunch and afterschool, until such time as the work is caught up. Pupils with an attendance <96% and/or who are absent due to an unauthorised holiday, will be directed into 'catch up sessions' during break, lunch and afterschool, until such time as the work is caught up'.

From September, the Academy resumed its policy of distributing half-termly Attendance Reports. In acknowledging the impact of Covid-19 on attendance, the following statement is included in the report.

'If your child has been legally required to self-isolate (due to Covid-19) the Academy accepts that this will have a significant impact on their attendance. Although the attendance figure as stated is accurate, the Academy recognises that this is not necessarily a true reflection of their attendance in a normal year'.

2.0 System of Controls

2.1 Does the Academy have a Risk Assessment?

Yes. A risk assessment has been in place since March 2020 and is reviewed on a weekly basis. Along with the FAQ document, it is published on the Academy's website - [Covid-19 Updates](#).

2.2 Does the Academy have an Outbreak Management Plan?

Yes. If the Academy has several confirmed cases this may indicate an 'outbreak'. The [Contingency Framework](#) describes the principles of managing local outbreaks. Local authorities, Directors of Public Health and UKHSA Health Protection Teams can recommend measures described in the framework as part of their outbreak management responsibilities. Along with the Risk Assessment and FAQ document, the Outbreak Management Plan is published on the Academy's website - [Covid-19 Updates](#).

2.3 Do pupils need to be organised into year group 'bubbles'?

The Government's [Operational Guidance](#) states the following in respect to 'bubbles':

'We do not recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). This means that 'bubbles' will not need to be used in schools. As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means that assemblies can resume, and you do not need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch.

You should make sure your contingency plans (sometimes called outbreak management plans) cover the possibility that it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups. Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of 'bubbles' would not be taken lightly and would need to take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education'.

2.4 Do year groups need to arrive and leave at different times?

No. Pupils can arrive and leave at the same time, although the following should be noted:

- Year 7 and 8 pupils should arrive and leave via the Front (Main Footpath).
- Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils should arrive and leave via the Front (Side Entrance).
- Any pupil in Year 7-11 can arrive or leave via the Back (Gate).
- On arrival, pupils are required to go straight to their Form room (from 8.25 a.m.).
- Break has been extended to 25 minutes and lunch reduced to 35 minutes.

2.5 What are the arrangements with Covid-19 testing?

The Government's [Operational Guidance](#) states the following in respect to testing:

'Staff and secondary school pupils should continue to test twice weekly at home, with lateral flow device (LFD) test kits, 3-4 days apart. Testing remains voluntary but is strongly encouraged.

Anyone who has previously received a positive Covid-19 PCR test result should not be re-tested within 90 days of that test unless they develop any new symptoms of Covid-19'.

2.6 Do pupils and staff have to wear a face covering?

The Government's [Operational Guidance](#) states the following in respect to face coverings:

'From 20th January, face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms. From 27th January, face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in communal areas'.

The use of face coverings may still be deployed under the [Contingency Framework](#).

2.7 What hygiene measures are in place?

- Additional cleaning will take place throughout the school day in line with [Cleaning in Non-Healthcare Settings](#) guidance.
- Desks, door handles, outdoor spaces and other critical areas will be cleaned regularly with disinfectant.
- A deep clean of the Academy site will be undertaken once a week.
- Pupils should arrive to school with their hands thoroughly washed and should use hand sanitizers that are placed at entrances and in classrooms.
- Pupils will be reminded to wash their hands before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing.
- Pupils will be reminded to use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste - 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'.
- Staff will be reminded to ensure doors and windows are open and rooms are well-ventilated - [HSE Air Conditioning and Ventilation](#) and CO₂ monitors have been installed around the Academy site.
- Additional (external) toilets and handwashing facilities will remain in situ.

2.8 Is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required?

No. The Government's [Operational Guidance](#) states the following in respect to PPE:

'Most staff will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work'.

Where PPE is required, refer to [PPE Use in Schools](#) guidance.

2.9 What is the situation with the Covid-19 vaccine for 12 to 15-year olds?

It would not be appropriate for the Academy to offer a view on whether children take up the offer of the Covid-19 vaccine. General advice, as with any medical procedure or pharmaceutical intervention, is for parents and children to consider the full range of information available and make an informed decision - [Covid-19 Vaccination Programme Information](#).

On 29th November, the Health and Social Care Secretary announced that young people aged 12 to 15 in England will be offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine, following advice from the JCVI.

Parents of children aged 12-15 that have not yet had their first vaccine can book their child's first vaccination slot via the [National Booking System](#).

2.10 What is the situation with the booster Covid-19 vaccine?

From 13th December, people aged 18 years and over, and those aged 16 years and over who are at risk (including health and social care workers) were offered a booster dose of the Covid-19 vaccine.

2.11 What is the current advice or guidance with regards to individuals who are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV)?

The Government's [Operational Guidance](#) states the following in respect to individuals who are clinically extremely vulnerable:

'The shielding programme has now come to an end and adults previously considered CEV should, as a minimum, continue to follow the same guidance as everyone else. It is important that everyone adheres to this guidance, but people previously considered CEV may wish to consider taking extra precautions.

Children and young people previously considered CEV should attend school and should follow the same Covid-19 guidance as the rest of the population. However, if advised to isolate or reduce their social contact by their specialist, due to the nature of their medical condition or treatment, rather than because of the pandemic, they should continue to follow the advice of their specialist'.

2.12 What is the current advice or guidance with regards to pregnant employees?

On 2nd November, the Government updated the guidance [Covid-19 Advice for Pregnant Employees](#).

The updated guidance applies to women at any gestation of pregnancy with removal of specific guidance for women at or over 28 weeks gestation. It also references the vaccination status of women as being a key consideration in risk assessments.

3.0 Covid-19 Response - Staff

3.1. What do I do if I develop symptoms of Covid-19?

Check that you have [Covid-19 Symptoms](#).

Do not attend work and arrange a [PCR Test](#).

Whilst waiting for the outcome, you are required to self-isolate.

If the test is **negative**, you can come out of self-isolation and return to work.

If the test is **positive**, you must **self-isolate* from the onset of symptoms**.

**From 17th January, the 10-day self-isolation period for those who record a positive test was reduced to 5 full days. Staff can take LFD tests on day 5 and day 6 (24 hours apart) and, providing they receive two negative results, can return to school from day 6. If the result of either of their LFD tests is positive, staff should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.*

3.2. What do I do if I record a positive test result from a Lateral Flow Device (LFD)?

From **Tuesday 11th January**, a confirmatory PCR test is **no longer** required i.e. the positive LFD test will be accepted as a 'true positive'.

You should follow the self-isolation guidance outlined in section 3.1.

3.3. What do I do if a member of my household develops symptoms of Covid-19?

The household member should follow the guidance outlined in section 3.1.

Providing that you are **fully** vaccinated (and 14 days have passed since your second dose), or you are not able to get vaccinated for **medical reasons**, you **do not** need to self-isolate unless you develop symptoms.

3.4. What do I do if I am identified as a 'contact' by NHS Test and Trace?

Fully vaccinated adults identified by NHS Test and Trace as a 'contact' **should take a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating**.

4.0 Covid-19 Response - Pupils

4.1. What do I do if I develop symptoms of Covid-19?

Check that you have [Covid-19 Symptoms](#).

Do not attend school and arrange a [PCR Test](#).

Whilst waiting for the outcome, you are required to self-isolate.

If the test is **negative**, you can come out of self-isolation and return to school.

If the test is **positive**, you must **self-isolate* from the onset of symptoms**.

From 17th January, the 10-day self-isolation period for those who record a positive test was reduced to 5 full days. Pupils can take LFD tests on **day 5 and day 6 (24 hours apart) and, providing they receive **two** negative results, can return to school from **day 6**. If the result of either of their tests is positive, pupils should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on **consecutive days** or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.*

4.2. What do I do if I record a positive test result from a Lateral Flow Device (LFD)?

From **Tuesday 11th January**, a confirmatory PCR test is **no longer** required i.e. the positive LFD test will be accepted as a 'true positive'.

You should follow the self-isolation guidance outlined in section 4.1.

4.3. What do I do if a member of my household develops symptoms of Covid-19?

The household member should follow the guidance outlined in section 4.1.

In line with wider changes to self-isolation from 16th August, as a child under the age of 18 years, you **do not** need to self-isolate, unless you develop symptoms.

4.4. What do I do if I am identified as a 'contact' by NHS Test and Trace?

Children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified by NHS Test and Trace as a 'contact', **should take a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating**.

5.0 Educational Provision

5.1 Are pupils following a 'normal' curriculum?

Yes. Pupils will continue to follow a broad and balanced curriculum. This will, however, be adapted to facilitate learning recovery (catch-up).

In the case of Year 11 pupils, their timetable will be modified at key points to include a 'Period 6' (Monday-Thursday 15.15 – 16.00 p.m.) This period will be used to cover and/or consolidate curriculum content in preparation for pupils' GCSE examinations. This will run alongside the Academy's Revision, Intervention and Subject Enhancement (RISE) programme.

5.2 Is the Academy offering a full programme of extracurricular activities?

Yes, pending any national or local restrictions associated with the Omicron variant of Covid-19 and/or measures implemented as part of the Outbreak Management Plan.

5.3 Is the Academy offering a full programme of educational visits?

Yes, pending any national or local restrictions associated with the Omicron variant of Covid-19 and/or measures implemented as part of the Outbreak Management Plan.

5.4. What educational provision is in place if schools have to close again?

The Academy will recommence remote learning provision delivered via MS Teams. Refer to [Remote Learning Policy](#) and [Remote Learning FAQ](#).

In terms of online safety, refer to [Further Information on Keeping Children Safe Online](#) and information below.

- [Thinkuknow](#) provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) to stay safe online.
- To help families manage during this time, the NCA has launched [Thinkuknow: home activity packs](#), a set of fun, engaging activities based on Thinkuknow cartoons, films, games, and advice articles
- A new activity sheet for each age group will be published on the [Thinkuknow](#) website every 2 weeks.
- [Parent Info](#) is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations.
- [Childnet](#) provides a tool kit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support.
- [Internet Matters](#) provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world
- [LGfL](#) provides support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including 6 top tips to keep primary aged children safe online.
- [Net Aware](#) provides support for parents and carers from the NSPCC, providing a guide to social networks, apps and games.
- [Let's Talk About It](#) provides support for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation.
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) provides tips, advice, guides and resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services.
- [Staying safe online](#) provides Government guidance offering advice on parental controls, fact-checking information, communicating with family and friends while social distancing is in place and taking regular breaks.

6.0 Wellbeing Provision

6.1. What wellbeing support is in place to support staff?

Refer to the [Staff Wellbeing Policy](#) and [The Education Staff Wellbeing Charter](#).

During the Autumn Term, arrangements will be made to train identified Mental Health Leads through the [Wellbeing for Education Recovery Programme](#).

6.2. What wellbeing support is in place to support pupils?

Refer to the [Mental Wellbeing Policy](#) and [Mental Wellbeing Resources](#).

Pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. Pupils can speak to their classroom teacher, Head of House, ([Contact List](#)), safeguarding staff (see below), member of support staff and/or the onsite BACP qualified counsellor.

Safeguarding Status	Member of Staff
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Mrs. N. Lillywhite
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)	Ms S. Daltrey
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)	Mrs. M. Philp
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)	Mr. Y. Moyet
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)	Ms H. Walden
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)	Mrs. L. Rutter
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)	Mr. S. Harrison