

# Cheapside CofE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Kate Searle



Friday 3rd September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

## **Re: Covid-19 Guidance**

We are updating you as to the school's position in light of the latest government guidance regarding Covid testing in schools and what to do if there are Covid cases in the school community.

### **Contact Tracing**

Since restrictions lifted the government has said that close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

The government guidance states:

*'Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. You may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.'*

*Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:*

- *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*

*Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.'*

The guidance then goes on to state:

*'Staff who do not need to isolate... **if they have been double vaccinated...** and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, **should continue to attend school as normal.**'*

## **Control Measures**

Although the national restrictions have been lifted and guidance for schools has been modified, we have taken the decision to keep many control measures as they were prior to the summer holidays. These include:

- Hand hygiene – sanitising and hand washing frequently throughout the school day
- Respiratory hygiene and ventilation – reminders about 'catch it, kill it, bin it' and continued use of open window/door policy throughout the school allowing good ventilation
- PPE – visitors into school are still required to wear masks
- Cleaning regimes – wiping down of shared toilet areas, dining tables and any areas likely to cross year groups e.g. tables in communal areas
- Maintaining social distancing and staggered pick-up and drop-off times
- Follow Public Health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19 – as previously, we would ask that you continue to use LFTs at home if possible. **As a school, we will continue to ask that if your child develops Covid symptoms at home that they get a PCR test before returning to school and follow Public Health advice. Equally, if a child shows Covid symptoms in school we will isolate them and ask that you come and pick them up and take them to be tested.**  
The main Covid symptoms are a high temperature, continuous cough and loss of taste and smell:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

## **Attendance**

The guidance states that attendance is mandatory at this time unless your child is ill or has asymptomatic Covid-19. In the latter case, the school will provide appropriate remote education.

## **Stepping Measures Up and Down**

Should the number of cases rise, we will step up our control measures accordingly.

We appreciate that as a school community this may well be a challenging time should case numbers rise. This is why we have taken the decision to keep the majority of our control measures in place, whilst acknowledging that the national picture has moved on but also being mindful of children's emotional well-being.

We will continue to monitor the situation and make any changes we deem necessary.

Yours sincerely

Senior Leadership Team