



Dear Parents,

Re: Updated government guidance for schools

We have now received our updated 'School Operational Guidance' from the DFE. I have included the link to the full guidance below, but a summary of the key points includes:

- At Step 4 and after the end of the summer term, it will no longer be necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). This means bubbles will not need to be used for any summer provision (for example, summer schools) or in schools from the autumn term. If your school is still open at Step 4 (19th July), you may wish to continue with these measures until the end of your summer term.
 - **We will remain as we are for the last week of term and will send out communication shortly as to the arrangements for our return to 'normality' in September.**
- Schools and settings will only need to do contact tracing up to 18th July 2021. From 19th July 2021 (Step 4), close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace.
- If a child displays symptoms, they must not come to school and must book a PCR test. The household (including any siblings) should follow the Public Health England stay at home guidance for households with a possible or confirmed case: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>
- From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be advised to take a PCR test by Test and Trace.
- From step 4, face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, students, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. From Step 4, face coverings are also no longer recommended to be worn on dedicated transport to school or college.
 - **As staff, we will continue to wear our face masks until the end of term as we still have members of staff who have not been fully vaccinated. We would appreciate the support of our school community with this as positive cases in the last week could still result in some of our children and staff being required to isolate by Test and Trace.**
- School will be required to produce an outbreak management plan, which we will publish on our website in due course, and this must cover the possibility that in some local areas it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period to reduce mixing in groups.

You can read the full guidance here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999689/Schools_guidance_Step_4_update_FINAL.pdf

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Crowther

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