

St. Andrew's CofE Primary School

Covid Parent Questions and Answers - September 2021

National Guidance States: People who have been fully vaccinated are no longer having to self-isolate if they are a contact of a positive case; those under 18 years of age also no longer need to self-isolate if they are a contact of a positive case.

We have conducted our own risk assessments and summarised some of the frequently asked questions here.

You can find a copy of our current risk assessments on our school website.

If my child has symptoms, can they come to school?

No. They should remain at home. The child with symptoms should get a PCR test. If positive, they will need to self-isolate for a full 10 days. If negative and they are well, they can then return to school.

If someone else in the household has symptoms, can my child come to school?

Yes, the child can continue to attend school if they have no symptoms. The person with symptoms should get a test and should self-isolate while they wait for the result.

If someone in the household tests positive, can my child come to school?

No - not straight away.

At St. Andrew's we are adding the following enhanced measure:

Children should stay off school and get a PCR test. If the test is negative, they can return to school if they have no symptoms. ***Please note: This is an enhanced measure based on the school risk assessment to protect pupils and staff.***

If my child is identified as a close contact from the community, can they come to school?

No - not straight away.

At St. Andrew's we are adding the following enhanced measure:

Children should stay off school and get a PCR test. If the test is negative, they can return to school if they have no symptoms. ***Please note: This is an enhanced measure based on the school risk assessment to protect pupils and staff.***

If someone in the class has symptoms, what happens?

The child will be sent home and must get a PCR test and self-isolate while waiting for the results. The other children in the class will continue to attend school.

If someone in the class tests positive, what happens?

That child will self-isolate for 10 days and the family should receive a call from NHS test and trace.

At St. Andrew's we are adding the following measure in some circumstances:

Staff will identify 'high risk contacts'; these are children who have had very close or prolonged close contact with the child who has tested positive within the past 48 hours. We will ask these parents to take their children for a PCR test and these children should remain off school while waiting for the result.

All other children in the class can continue to attend school. Parents will be informed that there is a positive case in the class and should remain vigilant to any developing symptoms for their child. ***Please note: This is an enhanced measure based on the school risk assessment to protect pupils and staff.***

Does my child need to take regular lateral flow tests?

No, this is not a requirement for Primary schools, however, if your families would like to do this then that is fine. We would encourage all adults to take regular (twice a week) lateral flow device tests to help identify early onset of covid.

What happens if lots of children at school test positive?

If this happens, we will involve our local health protection team and they will advise us if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of our outbreak management plan. This may include wider testing or targeted closures of certain groups or classes.

What happens if a staff member tests positive?

The staff member will self-isolate for 10 days. Appropriate cover will be put in place for the children if needed.

If my child is self-isolating, will they get work?

Yes. We will implement our remote education plan for any child self-isolating at home and if they are well enough, we will expect them to complete all work set and submit this via Class Dojo. Staff will liaise with parents as appropriate.

Will children be in bubbles?

We have implemented whole key stage bubbles rather than the smaller bubbles from last year. This is relevant for Collective Worship in the Hall and for break and lunchtimes.

Will school let us know if there is a positive case?

We will aim to keep parents informed and contact those directly affected by a positive case. We may also include general details in our Friday newsletter.

If a parent has been a close contact and is not required to self-isolate (double vaccinated) can they still bring children to school?

Yes, after they have received a negative PCR test. ***Please note: This is an enhanced measure based on the school risk assessment to protect pupils and staff.***

NHS suggest:

- limiting close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces
- wearing a face covering in enclosed spaces and where you are unable to maintain social distancing
- limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable
- taking part in twice weekly LFD testing

In all circumstances – please keep school updated about any symptoms, close contacts, or positive cases.

If you have any further questions, please get in touch.