



29<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear parents and carers,

All schools in Wakefield have received additional advice from Wakefield Council following recommendations made by the COVID-19 Health Protection Board.

All schools within the Trust are implementing the following additional measures with immediate effect.

This is in response to the continuation of increasing rates of infection across the Wakefield District. In the primary school age group (5-9 year olds) the case rate is 861.6/100,000, which is the highest case rate in any age group in Wakefield. Unfortunately, since half term we have continued to see substantial outbreaks in primary schools, which have been causing significant disruption.

Additional advice to schools:

1. **If someone in the household has tested positive for COVID-19 (on LFD or PCR)**, advise pupils to stay at home for 3 – 5 days. If they develop symptoms, they should get a PCR test straight away and continue to stay at home. If they don't have symptoms, they should get a PCR test on day 3 after their household member started with symptoms (or took their test if they had no symptoms). If this test is negative, the child can return to school. They must stay at home and arrange another test if they go on to develop symptoms.

**Children and young people who are fully vaccinated for their age, or who have tested positive by PCR within the last 90 days, are exempt from the above advice.**

Parents/carers who still want their child to continue to attend school have the right for them to do so. We hope that most parents will understand the reasons behind the request and will feel able to support it, especially as they will have at least one household member self-isolating at home already.

If a parent really wants their child to continue to attend school, an alternative that can be considered is daily lateral flow tests. The child should do a lateral flow test each morning before school for 10 days, and can attend school provided the LFT is negative and they have no symptoms.

2. **Recommend the use of face coverings** by adults in all schools in communal areas, including on dedicated school transport.

3. **Ensure windows are open in the classroom** to facilitate good ventilation, as much as is practicable and particularly in areas that have been shown to have poor air quality (if your school has access to CO2 monitors).
4. **Reduce mixing between year groups and classes** as much as possible to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.
5. **Wherever possible, suspend whole-school or year group events** e.g. assemblies. Revert staff and governors' meetings to virtual format. **Limit visitors to the school** and consider carefully whether events that bring parents into the school can be managed safely or should return to online.
6. **Carefully consider whether educational trips and residential visits should go ahead or could be postponed to the spring.** This is especially important because being on transport together for long periods, and/or sharing overnight accommodation, increases the chance of transmitting COVID-19.

The COVID 19 Risk Assessment has been updated to incorporate the above additional measures – this is available on the school website. All changes/additions are in red text.

We thank you for your continued support and understanding during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,



**Mrs J Littlewood**  
**Headteacher**