

Recommendations for the start of the autumn term

September 2021

Face Coverings

We would recommend that parents continue to wear face coverings on the school site when dropping off and picking up children.

The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet.

Parental Contact / PTA Events

We would recommend that schools avoid bringing parents onto the school site other than to drop off and pick up their children. Where a meeting is required this should be done online if possible.

Where schools feel it is necessary to bring parents onto site (e.g. for an open day) a risk assessment should be conducted that focuses on managing the numbers on the school site and does not bring large groups of people into 1 place at the same time. We would also recommend that this takes place outside the normal school day and face coverings are worn.

Assemblies

We would recommend not returning to full school assemblies straight away and considering smaller groupings in the first instance. Where mixing classes and year groups consider seating arrangements that will help to minimise transmission should there be a positive case.

Staff meetings / trainings

Meetings and training sessions should be delivered virtually where possible.

Class seating arrangements

We would suggest that in line with national guidance class seating arrangements can return to normal. This should be considered in line with your risk assessment and your local context. This would be considered as an additional mitigation as part of the Outbreak Management Plan.

Testing

We recommend that all members of the school community take Lateral Flow Tests twice weekly.

Social Distancing

We recommend that you continue to encourage social distancing where possible through reinforcement of the control measures and signage as appropriate.

Staff Vaccinations

It is good practice for staff in schools to disclose whether they are fully vaccinated, however, a staff member has the option to not disclose their vaccination status. At present, it is not mandatory that they inform the

school about whether they are vaccinated. If a staff member is in close contact with another member of staff or pupil who tested positive, the school can ask that that the (undisclosed) staff member isolates for 10 days.

This will be reviewed in line with updates to national guidance.