

24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

**COVID Update.**

We have written to you previously about the Trust's cautious decision-making in regard to central government COVID guidance changes.

Following the Prime Minister's 'Living with COVID' announcement on the 21<sup>st</sup> February, we have made the decision as a Trust to maintain the majority of our existing arrangements for a period of time.

We therefore request your support as follows:

- All pupils who are showing symptoms of COVID should test. If positive, they must remain at home for 5 days and return once they have two negative test results on consecutive days
- If no testing is available then we will require all pupils to remain at home for 5 days and return once symptoms have passed after this period
- If a pupil becomes symptomatic at school then we will require them to be picked up immediately and remain at home for at least 5 days as per the previous bullet point
- Any pupil with confirmed or suspected COVID will not be permitted to attend school, in order to protect other pupils and staff from infection

Although some medical evidence has been made available, we are being cautious once again. We will review our approach regularly by monitoring what is happening elsewhere and ensuring we keep any risk of to a minimum.

We appreciate that the Trust's decision differs slightly from central government guidance. However, in our schools, all individuals are in close contact with people from outside their households in enclosed, often crowded spaces, with limited ventilation in some areas.

We also have pupils and staff who are considered to be vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), and high or higher-risk and therefore at risk of serious illness, who according to the guidance, are now required to be in school. As I am sure you understand, any child attending school when they are potentially infectious would be putting these vulnerable pupils and staff at an unacceptable risk.



Like all our families, we want our pupils back in school. Throughout the pandemic, we have followed and responded to the guidance of the DfE and the NHS in the best interest of the pupils, staff and wider society, even when, as on this occasion there is ambiguity regarding the advice we are receiving from different agencies.

We will review this situation on the **1<sup>st</sup> April** at the very latest but as stated previously, we will continue to monitor the situation both at a local and national level.

We are extremely grateful for your understanding and co-operation.

Yours faithfully

Mr Philip Tagoe

Headteacher

