

16 July 2021

RE: Updated COVID guidance for schools and arrangements for September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, the Department for Education has released updated operational guidance for schools, which includes public health advice on actions schools should take to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus in their setting. The guidance sets out the changes that will take place as the country moves to Step 4 of the roadmap, which takes effect from the 19<sup>th</sup> of July. As the restrictions become less stringent, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education, which is reflected in some of the changes. Please find a summary of the changes below.

**Risk assessment**

Schools will maintain a COVID 19 risk assessment, and this will be updated and shared on our website ahead of September.

**Mixing and 'bubbles'**

The guidance no longer recommends that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). At Larkswood, we will initially maintain playground areas/zones at breaks and lunches in 'phases' of two year groups (Early Years, Years 1 and 2, Years 3 and 4, and Years 5 and 6). This is in order to reduce mixing between groups, whilst not continuing with the stringent bubble system as it existed previously. This will then be reviewed towards the end of the first half term.

**Tracing close contacts and isolation**

From the 19<sup>th</sup> of July, schools will no longer be undertaking contact tracing. From this date, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace. However, in exceptional cases, the school may be contacted to help with identifying close contacts.

From the 16<sup>th</sup> of August, children under the age of 18 years old will be no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a COVID-19 case. Instead, children who have been identified as a close contact will be advised to take a PCR test.

**Children with symptoms**

Given the potential risk to others, the guidance remains that children with any of the following symptoms should remain at home until confirmation of a negative test result: a new, continuous cough; a high temperature; a loss of sense of taste or smell.

**Lime Academy Larkswood**

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The Lime Trust, trading as Lime Academy Larkswood is a company limited by guarantee and exempt charity.

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### Children with a positive test result

The guidance states that children will isolate if they have a positive test result. If the positive result is from a LFT, they will be required to undertake a PCR test within 48 hours to confirm the result. We ask that you inform the school and NHS of any positive results from our pupils.

### Control measures

The school are advised to maintain the following control measures, all of which will form part of our risk assessment:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

### Remote education

The school will continue to support children who need to self-isolate to learn from home, if they are well enough to do so. We will continue to use SeeSaw (and Tapestry for the Early Years) to provide remote education under these circumstances.

### Drop off and collection

We will continue to use the same one-way playground system that is currently in place. Please note the gate opening and closing times have been slightly adjusted to the following:

**AM:** Gate opens: 8.30 Gate closes: 8.45

**PM:** Gate opens: 3.15 Gate closes: 3.30

I hope you have a restful summer break,

Best wishes.



**Victoria Bruce**

**Deputy Headteacher (Acting Headteacher from September)**

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