



11th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

STEP THREE OF THE COVID-19 ROADMAP

I am writing to confirm the education arrangements which will stay the same, and those that will change, following the Prime Minister's announcement regarding step three of the roadmap of easing of restrictions.

Following an ongoing decline in critical COVID19 case data; the national alert level has been reduced, the four tests for easing of the restrictions have been met, and we are moving to step three of the Government's roadmap from next Monday 17th May.

Protective Measures

We are required to follow guidance from the Department of Education, the Local Authority and Public Health England to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID19 in our schools.

This guidance has been updated to reflect step three of the roadmap, but the requirement to undertake a risk assessment and implement a range of protective measures remains, which we have completed.

What is staying the same?

The protective measures which remain in place in our schools, and include regular hand washing, consistent groupings (known as bubbles), keeping pupils and staff apart as much as possible, and enhanced cleaning routines.

Testing

Regular asymptomatic and symptomatic testing remains a vital part of the approach to suppress the virus. It is imperative that if anyone displays symptoms of COVID19 they self-isolate, along with other members of their household, and organise a PCR test. It is not appropriate to use lateral flow tests when individuals have symptoms of COVID19.

Testing remains in all schools. Therefore, children and staff will continue to test at home and download their results to google classroom.

We remain responsible for contact tracing following a positive case within the school/setting. Any individual identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID19 has a legal obligation to self-isolate as advised.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents that have supported us during this difficult period. Your support in these matters has been wonderful.

Chief Executive Officer: **Mrs Anita Johnson** B.Ed, NPQH

Face Masks

The government have introduced new advice regarding the use of face coverings in school.

It states that:

From 17th May 2021, in line with Step 3 of the Roadmap, face coverings will no longer be recommended for students in classrooms or communal areas, in all schools. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms.

In all schools, we continue to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas).

Therefore, from the 17th May 2021, students will no longer have to wear face masks in our schools in line with government guidelines.

We would appreciate your support in having face coverings in the corridors and communal areas where children move around. This is not compulsory.

There may be some parents who prefer their children to wear a face covering at all times and we are happy to accommodate that.

DfE Guidance

The DfE guidance also states that:

- The reintroduction of face coverings for students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern. In all cases, any educational drawbacks should be balanced with the benefits of managing transmission.
- The Local Action Committee structure (Bronze/Silver/Gold) should be used in such circumstances to re-introduce the use of face coverings. Immediate outbreak response (at the level of individual settings or a cluster of settings) remains for local Directors of Public Health to advise on.

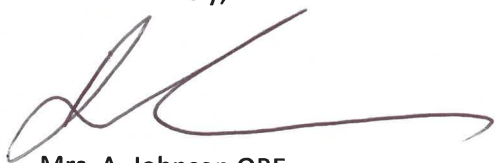
Domestic Residential/Non-Residential Education Visits

Schools will be permitted to take domestic residential/non-residential education visits. There will be a risk assessment prepared, which identifies the additional protective measures in place. This will include protocols for responding to a case of COVID19.

Attendance

Attendance became mandatory again from 8th March, this means it is your legal duty to send your child to school.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. A. Johnson OBE
Headteacher

CEO, The Loxford School Trust

Chief Executive Officer: **Mrs Anita Johnson** B.Ed, NPQH