

Bulphan Church of England Academy
Fen Lane, Bulphan, Essex. RM14 3RL

Executive Headteacher: Miss S. Finch
Head of School: Miss E. Taylor
Telephone: (01375) 891220
Email: admin.bulphan@dcvst.org



4th January 2021

School COVID Guidance Update

Dear Parents / Carers.

Happy New Year to you and your family. I hope you had a happy and healthy Christmas and are looking forward to 2022.

As we return to a new school term I wanted to update you on current Government guidance and the measures we have put in place to keep everyone safe and ensure we can remain operational as a school. The following temporary measures will be in place:

- All visitors to the school premises (including the playground) are required to wear a face covering unless medically exempt.
- Staff will wear a face covering in all communal areas of the school building.
- We will limit the mixing of large groups of children indoors.
- Children in Middle and Upper will eat lunch in their classrooms to limit close proximity mixing indoors, before going outside for lunch break as normal.
- Children in Lower will eat lunch in the hall to limit close proximity mixing indoors, before going outside for lunch break as normal.
- Worships will be either in class or virtual to limit close proximity mixing
- Meetings with parents/carers will take place virtually or over the phone.
- Indoor spaces will remain as ventilated as possible.

In addition to the above measures, we ask that all children take a lateral flow test twice weekly. If your child tests positive then they must take a confirmatory PCR test before returning to school. If the PCR is positive then guidance provided by NHS Test and Trace must be followed before your child can return to school. If the test is negative your child can immediately return to school.

The Department for Education has confirmed that isolating children can return to school on day 8 of their 10-day isolation period if they have tested negative on two consecutive lateral flow tests taken no earlier than on days 6 and 7, 24 hours apart. If the lateral flow test returns a positive result then your child must remain in isolation until they have either two consecutive negative lateral flow test results taken 24 hours apart or they complete the full 10 days of isolation, whichever comes first.

'God's word is a lamp to guide our feet and a light for our path'
Inspired by Psalm 119:105

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Children must not attend school if they are displaying or experiencing any of the main symptoms of COVID-19: a high temperature, a persistent cough or a loss of taste or smell. In this instance, they must isolate and take a PCR test as soon as possible.

Anyone aged 5 years and over, who has been identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 and who is not legally required to self-isolate, is now strongly advised to take an LFT test every day for 7 days or until 10 days since their last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier. If any of these LFT tests are positive they should self-isolate in order to protect other people and seek a PCR test.

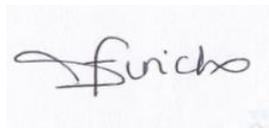
If you have any questions regarding the isolation and testing requirements, please contact our school office who will be happy to assist you.

All measures will be kept under review and adapted in light of Department for Education and Local Authority guidance.

We hope to remove these measures in the very near future, but much still remains uncertain. With incredibly high infection rates, it seems prudent to do all we can to ensure that as many children and staff are able to attend school each day as possible, by reducing the possibility of transmission as much as we can.

Thank you for ongoing your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Miss Finch
Executive Headteacher



Miss Taylor
Head of School

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