



BEESTON HALL SCHOOL

Michaelmas Term 2021 - Parents Covid 19 Information and Guidance

While we are all grateful to be seeing the decline of this virus as a disrupter of education and development of children, we feel obliged (and are required by Government Schools Inspectorate) to put in place a number of reasonable protocols to protect our community from an outbreak.

Therefore, particularly at the start of term, we will have the following control measures in place to minimise transmission as we settle into the new academic year. There may be some who consider it should be 'business as usual (pre Covid)', however please bear with our caution which is in place to reduce the chances of infection and the need for additional testing and self-isolation and is in line with what many other Prep and Public Schools are doing.

Those children in Years 7 and 8, and staff, will be encouraged to continue with LFD tests as before, certainly at the start of term and during September.

These measures will be reviewed at the end of September in line with the government's review. We would ask that all parents follow this guidance.

It should be recognised that all the way through this pandemic our overriding priority has been the safety of our school community. Nothing has changed regarding this priority. The government expects a spike in positive cases in September (which we are currently seeing in Scottish Schools, who have already returned and have recorded record numbers over the past 3 days) and we are keen not to become a part of that statistic and to give our pupils the best possible chance of an uninterrupted education in the academic year 2021-2022.

Therefore:

- We will be sticking with the same **drop-off and pick-up** routines as last term. Drop off for Years 6 to 8 and families (with children in these year groups) is through the Link. Parents should drive up the main drive, drop their child off in front of the main house and drive out through the main car park.

Drop-off for Years 2 to 5 remains at the back gate for families with children in these year groups. Parents should drive up the farm lane, drop their child/ren off at the entrance to the back courtyard, drive up the lane and turn around in the turning area at the top of the lane. Families with children in both groups should drop off and use the Link. Parents for the Pre-Prep will continue parking by the Dean Courts and walking to the pre-prep playground gate. Siblings in the Prep School should also be dropped off here and should walk to their classrooms.

- At this stage we do not intend to use the main car park for parental parking or 'the Link' for parents dropping their son/daughter off. Only children should enter through the Link.
- We will be continuing with the **staggered pick-up times/locations** on exeat weekends and at half/end of terms. Please see the school diary for timings.
- Parents/visitors must **wear a face-covering** when inside a school building, however, we do not require parents to wear a mask when on-site outside in the fresh air.
- Parents/visitors may use the **visitors' toilet** in the East passage by the main school office.
- We will continue to promote **social distancing at school** at all times and would ask that all parents socially distance from staff and children from other families.
- **Face to face meetings** will be able to resume. In all cases good ventilation and social distancing will be in place.
- Parents/visitors will be able attend school **sports matches** both at Beeston and away, subject to the directives of those schools.
- **Parents' Match Tea's** – These will be served on the Putting Lawn underneath a marquee.
- When parents are supporting Beeston teams at **sports fixtures**, we politely request that social distancing takes place between families and that children socially distance from other families at match teas. The children will also be having a 'quick' match tea outside on the Putting Lawn along with their opposition. It is our policy (to minimise the risk of spreading the virus) that match teas will be held outside (or from the entrance of the Dining Room) at present.
- **Parents Evenings/Meet the Mentors** – will take place both face to face and/or via Zoom depending on the situation at the time. Both options are being planned for. You will be informed of the plan prior to the event.
- **FoB's coffee mornings** – In September these will take place outside on the Putting Lawn underneath a gazebo or marquee.
- **Transport** - there will be no need for pupils to wear a face covering when travelling in a school vehicle. However, both staff and pupils are very welcome to do so should they wish. Where different families are travelling to and from school together (particularly if the children are in

different year groups) in the same vehicle we continue to advise that there is good ventilation in the vehicle at all times.

- When travelling all windows on any school transport will be fully or partially opened allowing plenty of air flow. If a pupil or member of staff (on that transport) subsequently tests positive within 48 hours of your son/daughter sharing a minibus with them they will be considered as a ‘close contact’ and will therefore need to follow the protocol below, based on their school year group.
- If you receive a **Positive Case** in your household, you should follow the following government guidelines. [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection) the main message can be read below.
- Anyone with COVID-19 [symptoms](#) or a positive test result should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should arrange to have a PCR test as soon as possible. This still applies even if you have received one or more doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- **If you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, if you are fully vaccinated or aged under 18 years and 6 months you will not be required to self-isolate.**
More information can be found here should you wish to read it ([you will not be required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19](#)).
- You could be fined if you do not self-isolate following a notification by NHS Test and Trace. You may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the [NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme](#) if you are required to stay at home and self-isolate or you are the parent or guardian of a child who has been told to self-isolate.

Below are the guidelines we are using to establish whether or not a pupil is a ‘close contact’ or simply a ‘contact’ of a pupil or staff member who tests positive. Close Contacts and Contacts will be based on the following criteria and individual cases will be reviewed and considered by the SLT.

Close Contacts	Contacts
On the same lunch table	Same class
Working in a pair or a small group in class	Same Tutor/Mentor group
Sat within 2 metres in a classroom, assembly, lecture or concert	Spent time with said person outside during a break period
Changing for games in the same row or close by on the opposite side of the bench	
Spent time with said person inside a building during a break period or share a dorm.	
Shared any type of transport (either school or personal) with said person	

With the above criteria as our guidelines, below is the guidance we will follow as to what the outcome will be whether your child is in Year 7 or Year 8 (Secondary School age) or in Reception to Year 6 (Primary School age)

- **Bubbles** no longer exist under government guidance. However, if we get a positive case on a Lateral Flow Device or on a PCR Test we will identify who are **close contacts** and **contacts** of said positive case (who had contact within the previous 48 hours prior to that person displaying symptoms) and those pupils in Year 7 or Year 8 and staff will need to do a LFD test immediately. If your child/ren in these year groups develop symptoms, they should go straight for a PCR test. If your child/ren in Year 7 or Year 8 is identified as a close contact or a contact but doesn't have symptoms they will need to carry out Lateral Flow Device Test for 7 days prior to coming to school each day, if a day pupil or member of staff member, and if the child is a boarder they will be tested before breakfast for 7 consecutive days.
- **For Pupils in Reception to Year 6 we will follow the government guidance as follows:**

On advice from Public Health England (PHE), pupils in primary school year groups are not included in the rapid asymptomatic testing programme.

PHE has advised that there are currently limited public health benefits to testing primary-aged pupils with lateral flow devices (LFD). In addition, **primary-aged pupils**, particularly younger children, may find the LFD testing process unpleasant and are unable to self-swab.

We are advising that pupils in Reception to Year 6 should only be tested if they are symptomatic, in which case you should follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and [book a PCR test](#) for the child.

If a pupil in **Reception – Year 6** develops symptoms and tests positive on a PCR test we will establish who the close contacts and contacts are of said pupil and the close-contacts will need to self-isolate for 10 days and should get a PCR test if they develop symptoms. The contacts may remain at school. The close contacts will receive remote learning during this time. They may not return to school should they have a PCR test at any point during the 10 days and a negative result is returned. Rapid LFD tests should not be offered to individuals who develop coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, regardless of their age.

In response to there being more than 3 cases in any one particular year group, being positive cases in 3 or more different year groups or, being 3 or more staff members absent at any one time with Covid. We will operate our, Outbreak Management Plan and will work closely with our local authority (LA), director of public health (DPH) and Public Health England (PHE) health protection team.

Created by: Bob Hammond (July and August 2021)

Reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team – August 28th 2021

This policy is under constant review in line with the latest Government guidance and in liaison with the organisations listed above.