Executive Headteacher: Mrs. D Dalton Head of School: Mr. B Lyons



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### **COVID UPDATE SPRING 2022**

Primary Academy

It is vital that schools ensure parents do not send their child into school if they are showing symptoms of coronavirus, are required to self-isolate or have had a positive test result. Parents must be aware that schools are able to refuse a pupil entry if, in their reasonable judgement, it is necessary in order to protect others from possible infection.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England.

The academy remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well. We encourage household members that are aged 11 and over to continue with twice weekly LFD testing to help identify cases promptly.

### **Public Health Guidance:**

If you think your child is a close contact but has not have not been contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace then they should take a PCR test via <u>Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u> or by calling 119. When ordering a PCR test it is important to check the box (online) or tell 119 'I've been told to get a test by my health protection team' <u>and not</u> 'I've been told to get a test by my school or nursery'. Further guidance can be found at <u>Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection who do not live with the person - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u>

# At school:

The school will continue to operate in line with the government's direction, giving full provision to all pupils and staff unless directed otherwise.

Full provision means the school will be operating under the reviewed times: **Monday** to **Friday** from **8:30am** until **3.45pm**.

The school will, however, deliver this full provision alongside a system of controls which aim to balance, minimising any risks from coronavirus to the school community with providing a full education for pupils.

This system of controls will follow government and public health guidance and will continue to be reviewed and updated where necessary, to ensure the controls are effective, up-to-date and working as planned. We will communicate any changes to you as soon as possible.

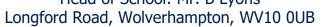








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Please contact the school office as soon as possible if you have any queries regarding your child's attendance.

#### Risk assessment

Primary Academy

The school has conducted a thorough risk assessment of these control measures designed to mitigate the risks of operating with full provision during the coronavirus pandemic. Our risk assessment covers various aspects of cleaning, staff availability, infection control and social distancing protocols, mental health and wellbeing, access to learning, and fire safety.

### **Group arrangements**

To maximise the effectiveness of social distancing between all staff and pupils attending school, pupils are in set consistent year or classes. The school is operating with the classroom teacher alongside any required TAs or SEND support staff. If it becomes necessary, however, all teachers and other staff are able to operate across all the school in order to facilitate the delivery of the full school timetable.

We acknowledge that we face some limitations to the practicality of these arrangements in certain circumstances and, therefore, will work with all pupils to help remind them of the importance of staying within their classes.

### Start and finish times

Pupils' start and finish times are lengthened in order for us to adhere to social distancing guidelines as much as possible. We recommend that pupils are dropped off or picked up by an accompanying adult.

We kindly ask that parents do not enter the school building or gather in groups on or the playground or outside of the school premises.

### **Infection control**

Combined with social distancing, strict infection control measures are an important aspect of keeping all staff and pupils safe and healthy in school. This means that we are enforcing rules to ensure that good hand and respiratory hygiene is consistently maintained.

We expect pupils to follow these rules; however, we understand that some pupils may be unable to fully understand infection control principles, e.g. if they are very young or have complex needs. Staff will work with all pupils to ensure their safety and positively reinforce good infection control behaviour where necessary.









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# **Increased hygiene practices**

Primary Academy

Pupils and staff are reminded to clean their hands frequently, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they move to another room and before and after eating. We also continue to promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. To ensure these practices are carried out, we will:

- Make handwashing and hand sanitiser stations available across the school.
- Supervise the use of hand sanitiser and support pupils with handwashing and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach if required, e.g. those with complex needs.
- Make sure there are enough tissues and bins available to support staff and pupils, including those with complex needs, to follow this routine.
- Build these routines into school culture and support them through behaviour expectations, ensuring younger pupils and those with complex needs understand why they must follow them.

## **Enhanced cleaning measures**

An enhanced cleaning schedule remains in place to ensure more frequent cleaning of rooms, shared areas, and frequently touched surfaces and resources.

Pupil groups are not allocated their own toilets; however, all toilets are cleaned more frequently.

### **Increased ventilation**

To help reduce the spread of coronavirus whilst the school is in operation, we will ensure the site is well ventilated and a comfortable learning environment is maintained.

Where possible, we will:

- Open windows in cooler weather windows will be opened just enough to provide constant background ventilation, and opened more fully during breaks to purge the air in the space.
- Open internal doors to help create a through-flow of air.
- Open external opening doors, where necessary and where safe.

To balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature, we will also:

- Open high-level windows in preference to low-level to reduce draughts.
- Increase the ventilation while spaces are unoccupied, e.g. between classes.
- Rearrange furniture to avoid direct draughts, where possible.

## Personal protective equipment (PPE) and face coverings

Staff will use PPE if a pupil shows symptoms of coronavirus and a distance of two metres cannot be maintained. Staff will also wear PPE if they would normally wear it to carry out their role, e.g. where a child requires intimate care or is receiving first aid following an accident or injury.









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Pupils are not required to wear face coverings at any time, this is optional. Staff are not required to wear face coverings at any point around the school at this time, again this optional. Any visitors who come into school wearing a face covering can safely remove it upon entering the premises. The face covering will then be placed into a sealable plastic bag and the individual will wash their hands thoroughly.

# **Bringing items into school**

To minimise the risk of potentially transmitting infections between pupils' and staff's households and the school, we ask that pupils do not bring non-essential items from home into school with them – this includes footballs and other similar items. Pupils will be able to take items from school, such as books, home with them if needed, provided that these items are properly cleaned before and after being in their homes.

Many thanks,

D.Dalton
Executive Headteacher







