



Dear Parents/Carers

15th July 2021

COVID UPDATE

From 19th July to the end of term

The government have announced that from 19th July the country is in Step 4 of the roadmap, however it is important to be aware that as we enter the last week of term, COVID rates amongst school-age children in Lincolnshire are higher now than at any time in the pandemic so far.

With a relaxation of rules permitted from the 19th, it is possible that we will see a further increase in cases associated during the last few days before the summer holiday. Not only will this possibly impact on family time together, it could also result in transmission to more vulnerable members of the community.

For these reasons, **there will be no relaxation of measures in our school before the summer holidays**. Staggered starts will remain until the end of term, along with the wearing of masks on the school grounds and social distancing. We will continue to work in bubbles with regular handwashing, good ventilation, and additional cleaning will continue.

We ask that parents continue to use lateral flow tests throughout the summer. These can be collected from the local pharmacy or ordered online. [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

If your child has, or is showing symptoms of COVID-19 (see below) they must not attend school and should remain at home and follow the stay at home guidance [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection). They should take a PCR test within 2 days of the onset of symptoms and only return to school if the test result is negative.

Symptoms of COVID-19:

- High temperature
- New, continuous cough
- Loss of, or change to, sense of smell or taste

Arrangements for September 2021

The government have announced that as part of Step 4 of the roadmap it is proposing to reduce the level of COVID-19 restrictions in schools. This marks a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day to day lives towards people protecting themselves and others. COVID is a virus we all have to learn to live with and we need to therefore work together as a school community to reduce the disruption to education and for children to be in school receiving a high-quality education.



We have carefully considered the Department for Education guidance (Schools COVID-19 operational guidance July 2021) and the context of our school. Please find below the protective measures that will be removed from September and those that will remain in place at Welton St Mary's Church of England Primary Academy.

Protective measures that will be removed from September 2021
Year group bubbles
Seating arrangements in rows
Staggered start and end times. All children will start school at 8.50am and finish school at 3.30pm. Gates will open at 8.40am and be closed at 9am. Gates will open in the afternoon at 3.25pm and be closed at 3.40pm.
No wearing face masks on the school site or social distancing, but we ask that parents and carers protect themselves and others
Toilets for children will no longer be designated

Protective measures that will be in place in September 2021
Regular handwashing and sanitising
Ventilation of rooms when there are children in there
Good cleaning regime with additional cleaning midway through the day
Good respiratory hygiene – catch it, bin it, kill it
Staff will continue to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in school when supervising anyone with symptoms. They may also use PPE for first aid.
Staff will continue to do Lateral Flow Device testing twice a week
Positive cases or anyone displaying symptoms (high temperature, new continuous cough or loss/change to taste or smell) must not attend school and must self-isolate. A PCR test must be taken within 2 days. If the PCR test is negative the child is able to return to school. If the test is positive, they must self-isolate and follow the NHS Test and Trace advice.
Children/staff who develop or show symptoms in school will be sent home.
School will continue to work with Public Health England on self-isolation and managing confirmed cases.
Children will no longer need to self-isolate if they have been identified as a close contact. Close contacts will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace. They are advised to have a PCR. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.
One adult on the school site at start and end times of school An exception to this is for Foundation Stage – on their first day of school, two adults can come on the school site.
One way system around the outside of school
One way system in school
For term 1 whole school collective worships will be held via Zoom. Upper school and lower school collective worships will be held in the hall.
Remote learning provision for children self-isolating who have tested positive

There will be two breaktimes. Foundation Stage, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 will be together and Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 will have their playtime together.
Lunchtimes will be two sittings. Foundation Stage, Year1, Year2, Year 3 will be the first sitting. Years 4, 5 and 6 will be the second sitting. All children will eat in the hall.
Continuation of zoom parents' evenings.
A detailed risk assessment https://weltonstmarysacademy.co.uk/covid-information/
Thorough risk assessments for all educational visits
An outbreak management plan https://weltonstmarysacademy.co.uk/covid-information/

Please bear in mind that schools may need to have additional measures if circumstances change. Our risk assessment and outbreak management plan will be added to the school website before the end of this term.

For further information about Step 4 in schools please use the following weblink [What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19](#)

Please share this guidance with grandparents and childminders who will be bringing your child to school in September.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support throughout the last 18 months. Together we have minimised the number of days the children have been required to learn from home and when this has happened, the children have been well-supported both from home and school, to ensure that learning has continued.

September sees the start of a new school year. Restrictions are being lifted but together we will continue to work to keep our school community safe and to provide high-quality learning opportunities for all of the children who attend our school.

Kind regards

Mrs N Gough

Headteacher

