



St Peter's Church of England Aided School

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20th November 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

I think we all share frustrations at children not being in school. Staff would certainly rather all students were able to attend school all of the time.

I am writing to re-emphasise how decisions are made, and which agencies are involved.

Our starting point is always the safety of the students and our community, whilst also seeking to maximise educational opportunities for students. I hope that the following summary supports your understanding of these processes and highlights all of our responsibilities in trying to keep children in education.

Step 1

School is told of positive Covid test

Step 2

School gathers information from student(s), family and staff

Step 3

School shares information with PHE, DfE, DCC, Transport Providers etc

Step 4

Expert external agencies advise on actions school needs to take

Step 5

School informs staff and families and advice implemented

There are some FAQ's overleaf, plus a reminder about responsibilities regarding sending students to school at this time.

'Life to the full for everyone.'





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FAQ's

Who makes the rules about self-isolation?

The National Health Service (NHS), Public Health England (PHE) and the Department for Education (DfE)

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/nhs-test-and-trace-if-youve-been-in-contact-with-a-person-who-has-coronavirus/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#fined>

Why are different numbers of students and staff told to self-isolate each time?

- The school shares the information it has gathered with PHE, DfE, DCC etc and depending on the individual situation the advice may be different each time.

Why is self-isolation so important?

The rules around self-isolation are serious enough for the Police to take time to interview and possibly fine anyone who chooses to break the rules. Self-isolation is about protecting family, friends, our wider community, and keeping our children and staff in school.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQXkxHBNKc>

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/09/28/coronavirus-covid-19-self-isolating-protects-your-friends-family-and-community/>

Your responsibilities as a parent/carer

By taking on these responsibilities you are helping the school and community to stay as safe as possible by not spreading infection to students or staff.

- If your child has symptoms of covid-19, do not send them into school
- If your child has been isolating, do not send them to school before the isolation period ends
- If your child has had a negative test result they should still self-isolate until this time ends
- If your child uses public transport, please ensure they wear a face covering

What are the symptoms of Covid-19?

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

I know that there are more interesting things to stick to your fridge but I hope this will help you to understand the reasons behind the current decision making.

This is a hugely frustrating time for everyone. Nobody wants your children in school learning, more than the staff. St Peter's has really robust safety mechanisms in place, but we cannot control risk outside school hours and so hope that these reminders will support everyone as we continue to work together.

We will of course update you of any changes.

Yours faithfully

Phil Randall
Headteacher