

5 November 2020

Dear parents/carers,

The Department for Education (DfE) published guidance for schools yesterday regarding the National Restrictions in place in England from 5<sup>th</sup> November. We are writing to explain what this means for schools and how it will affect you and your child. This guidance comes in with immediate effect.

The government continues to prioritise the wellbeing and long-term futures of our children and young people and will not be closing early years settings, schools, further education (FE) colleges or universities. It remains very important for children and young people to attend, to support their wellbeing and education and help working parents and carers. Senior clinicians still advise that school is the best place for children to be, and so they should continue to go to school. Childcare or education is one of the exceptions that children, young people and parents and carers can leave their home for.

All our schools have implemented a range of protective measures to make them safe and our risk assessments are reviewed and updated very regularly. The full risk assessment document can be viewed on our trust website at [www.wellswaymat.com](http://www.wellswaymat.com).

The main aspects covered by this guidance are as follows:

**1. Clinically extremely vulnerable children**

- Children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place. If your child is in this category we will provide remote education for him/her
- Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education
- Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable are no longer identified as such. We would encourage parents to speak to their GP or specialist clinician, as soon as possible, if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable
- Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school whilst this advice is in place. Where a meeting with a GP or specialist clinician has not taken place, the public health advice is that the child is still clinically extremely vulnerable and should not attend school
- Parents/Carers are asked to notify their child's school if their child has been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable

**2. Clinically vulnerable children**

- Children who are clinically vulnerable or have underlying health conditions but are not clinically extremely vulnerable, may continue to attend school in line with current guidance

**3. Wrap-around care**

- All activities providing wrap-around care, such as breakfast clubs and before and after school care, will continue to run as this will help working parents

#### **4. Extra-curricular activities**

- All extra-curricular activities that take place outside the school day, such as activity clubs and sports will not continue for the duration of the national restrictions
- After school study sessions that are part of the curriculum will still continue, as will school detentions

#### **5. Face Coverings**

- In primary schools, there is no change to the existing position where children and staff are not required to wear face coverings. As previously communicated however, any child or member of staff in a WMAT school who wishes to wear a face covering will be permitted to do so
- In year 7 and above, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. Secondary school pupils should bring a face mask with them that meets the accepted standard. It must be plain and should not have any logo or image on it. Masks should be replaced or washed in line with the guidance supplied by the manufacturer
- Face coverings should also be worn by pupils in year 7 and above when travelling on dedicated school transport to school
- Children and young people aged 11 and over must wear a face covering on public transport

#### **6. Visitors to school site**

- Schools should restrict all visits to the setting to those that are absolutely necessary. This means suspending parent/carer visits for:
  - new admissions e.g. tours
  - settling-in children new to the school
  - attending organised performances
- In addition, we are now asking any visitor or parent/carer who visits a WMAT school site to wear a face covering. This also applies to parents and carers dropping off and picking up children from school. Staff will also be wearing a face covering when on duty at the school gate. We also ask all parents/carers to respect the two metre social distance guidance when dropping off or picking up their child

#### **7. Sport**

- Competition between different schools should not take place, in line with the wider restrictions on grassroots sport
- Schools are able to work with external coaches, clubs and organisations for *curricular* activities where they are satisfied that it is safe to do so. This will be the subject of a risk assessment

#### **8. Ventilation**

- In addition, the DfE updated its guidance in October to include the requirement for schools and classrooms to be well ventilated as this will help to stop the transmission of the virus. As we approach winter, it is important therefore that children and young people bring a warm coat to school with them, which they will be allowed to wear in classrooms. Please note that the style of coat should comply with the school's uniform requirements

### **Reminder regarding symptoms, testing and self-isolation**

A reminder that pupils should self-isolate at home if they, or someone they have been in close contact with, develops one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- The loss or change of their sense of taste or smell

Anyone who develops symptoms should book a test. Testing can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. There is no need for the household to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic.

Despite the further restrictions, please rest assured that we will do our absolute best to ensure that children and young people are safe, happy and learning. Our experience since September has been positive and we are sure that by working together and respecting these new guidelines, we can continue to make sure this is the case.

Many thanks for your support and we hope you and your family remain safe.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A Smart". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mrs A Smart  
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Arlidge". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Andrea Arlidge  
Chief Executive