



19th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Suffolk's Framework for Managing Covid-19

You may be aware from press reports that Suffolk has just released a revised framework for managing Covid in all early years and school settings. This framework has been developed by Public Health and Children and Young People's Services in consultation with Education Sector Leads.

All schools are being asked to implement specific measures from the week beginning 22nd November in order to support a collective effort across our region to suppress the spread of Covid. There are three levels of measures, depending on the rate of infection in schools. Level 1 is the baseline level being applied to all schools in Suffolk and the control measures are as follows:

- Essential visitors only and those that do come onto the site must wear a mask;
- Face masks in communal areas for staff at all schools plus students at secondary school;
- Twice weekly LFD testing for staff at all schools plus students at secondary school (with schools being encouraged to begin seeking evidence of test results);
- Daily LFD testing for close contacts with a PCR test on day five.

We do have spikes of infection in West Suffolk and we may, therefore, be subject to further measures over the next few weeks. Parents, carers and pupils will be advised by their Head of School if this is the case.

Christmas events, together with sports fixtures, trips and visits are also included in the revised guidance. A separate risk assessment will be completed for each event and used to determine how, and in what way, the risk of transmission can be minimised, thereby enabling some events to take place before Christmas. Inevitably, control measures may include limiting the number of parents/carers able to attend any onsite event. Schools which move to Level 2 or Level 3 are advised not to hold onsite events, although recordings and zoom transmission are still possible. Public Health officers acknowledge and appreciate that each school's circumstances will differ and Heads are being supported to make the right decision for their school. However, everyone appreciates that any decision is likely to reduce parental/carer involvement and that this, undoubtedly, will cause disappointment.

The outcome we all want is for schools in Suffolk to be able to return to national Covid measures as opposed to being identified as an area of enhanced response. The most recent Public Health data indicates that we are not quite where we need to be, but a concerted effort across all schools over the next few weeks should enable us to reach this point as quickly as possible.

Once all guidance and advice has been received, individual schools will be providing more information on their end of term arrangements. Schools will be doing their utmost to ensure that Christmas can be celebrated safely and that trips, visits and fixtures can take place wherever possible.

Bacton
Primary School

Cedars Park
Primary School

Mendlesham
Primary School

Stowupland
High School

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents, carers and pupils for your continued understanding and support. We fully appreciate the stresses and strains created by Covid and if you feel that we can assist you or your family in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Mrs KD Grimes
Chief Executive Officer



Mrs T Sait
Executive Headteacher



Mr P Whear
Executive Headteacher

To contact the Schools or Trust:

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