



Covid 19. Remote Learning Update – September 21

As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for 2 doses by mid-September.

Remote education provision:

Information for parents under all **FULL** lockdown scenarios is available in our in-depth remote learning policy. [School Policies Bilston CE Primary \(bilstoncofeprimary.co.uk\)](http://bilstoncofeprimary.co.uk). Children will be provided with good quality remote education and will be taught exactly the same broad and balanced curriculum that is being taught in school.

The information in this short update is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils and parents or carers about what to expect from remote education considering the new government guidelines and contingency plans.

The Government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to operate as normally as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. Measures affecting education and childcare may be necessary in some circumstances to:

- Help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within a setting
- Partake in a package of measures responding to a Variant of Concern (VoC) or to extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community
- Prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS
- Help break chains of transmission.

School Priorities:

Our priority is to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health.

We have consulted with and will continue to work closely with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Public Health England (PHE) to revise this guidance accordingly.

Collaboration

Multi-agency collaboration and communication is important in ensuring consistency in approach across England wherever issues occur, so that no group of children, pupils or students is unfairly disadvantaged. Where decisions about measures in education and childcare settings are made at a national level, school will work with the DfE, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), JBC, NHS Test and Trace, the Chief Medical Officer, PHE and other government departments, as well as relevant local authorities. The school will review the available evidence and take into account the judgement of public health professionals.

What should my child expect from immediate remote education where a child is self-isolating under the new guidance?

If your child is self-isolating as a result of testing positive for Covid 19 then they will not receive any work as they will be classed as if they were sick.

However, (in the unlikely event) that your child has been sent home as part of a bubble or class closure work will provided via a school platform such as Class Dojo (KS1) and TEAMS (KS2). Please see the schools full Remote Learning Policy here. [School Policies Bilston CE Primary \(bilstoncofeprimary.co.uk\)](http://bilstoncofeprimary.co.uk).

Will bubble or class closures take place this year if positive cases are reported in school?

Bubble or cohort closures will only take place if:

- 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period.
- 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

Accessing remote education: How will my child access any online remote education school are providing?

We recognise that some pupils may not have suitable online access at home. We take the following approaches to support those pupils to access remote education:

A 'Parental Access to ICT' survey has been completed for all of the children in school. This has informed school of what digital and online access children have at home. All staff have been informed of which children in their class have no digital or online access at home and these children will therefore be provided with a government-funded laptop. Before these devices are handed over, parents or carers will need to sign a 'Device Loan Agreement' so that they can be held responsible for the equipment that they are loaning. Initially, children who are classed as 'disadvantaged' by the government will be prioritised with regards to being provided with digital devices. Correspondence has been sent out by school informing parents of how their children can access their remote learning through a range of devices, including PlayStation and Xbox One.

What actions will school take if notified of a positive case in school?

- Immediately inform parents if children have been in close contact with a positive case
- Advise the parent to take the child for a PCR as they were in close contact with the confirmed case should any symptoms present in the child

- School will review and reinforce the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures they already have in place such circumstances
- Continue to advise staff to test twice per week for the foreseeable future.
- Numbers and cases will monitored closely to ensure transmission rates do not increase.

Under-18s, irrespective of their vaccination status, and double vaccinated adults will not need to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a positive case. They will be strongly advised to take a PCR test and, if positive, will need to isolate.

Testing

Schools are no longer responsible for contact tracing. NHS Test and Trace (T&T) will follow up with contacts of positive cases and give them advice depending on their circumstances. Those that are exempt from self-isolation, including children under the age of 18 and 6 months and fully vaccinated adults will no longer be required to self-isolate if they come in to contact with a positive case. They should however follow any advice given by Track and Trace regarding accessing PCR, testing and take precautions such as avoiding contact with clinically extremely vulnerable people, ensuring frequent and thorough handwashing / sanitisation and wearing face coverings in enclosed spaces where appropriate.

Face Coverings

Children and staff will no longer be advised to wear face coverings. This will be balanced with the benefit of managing transmission and may be subject to change should transmission rates increase.

Shielding

Shielding is currently paused. In the event of a major outbreak or VoC that poses a significant risk to individuals, Shielding would be considered in addition to other measures to address the residual risk. However, shielding can only be reintroduced by national government and would be set as per government guidelines.

Will my child be taking part in residential visits this year?

Both educational day visits and residential visits will continue as planned and school will follows the guidance given by the education provider for the visit as well as continuing to review and reinforce the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures we already have in place such circumstances.

Any attendance restrictions will be reflected in the visits risk assessment and setting leaders will consider carefully if the educational visit is still appropriate and safe. Only students who are attending the setting should will go on an educational visit. School will consult the health and safety guidance on educational visits when considering visits.

Will parents bn invited back into school this year for open days and assemblies?

Parents will be welcomed back into school this academic year. However, some measures will still be in place such as social distancing and one way systems where possible, as well as the hygiene and ventilation measures. Small steps will be made by the school to return to normality as we continue to monitor cases and transmission rates. We aim to continue to keep our school as safe as possible to ensure we are able to remain open for our families.

Will transport and school meals be affected in the new academic year?

Transport services will continue to be provided and will not be affected at present. School meals will also continue in school and normal service will continue.

What will happen if transmission rates begin to rise significantly in school?

Should transmission rates in school rise school will review and consider:

- any activities that possible could take place outdoors, including exercise, assemblies, or classes
- ways to improve ventilation indoors, where this would not significantly impact thermal comfort
- one-off enhanced cleaning focussing on touch points and any shared equipment

Parents will always be informed of significant changes immediately should it affect any services offered by the school. School will seek additional public health advice if they are concerned about transmission in the setting, either by phoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1) or in line with other local arrangements. A director of public health or an HPT will give settings advice reflecting the local situation and school will act upon that advice accordingly.