

Q. My child has symptoms, shall I send them to school?

No, do not send your child to school, they must remain home and government guidelines about isolation should be followed. Please do inform the school.

Q. A member of the family has displayed symptoms can I still send my child to school?

No, keep your child at home and isolate the household. It is really important you do not delay in doing this as there is a risk of infection within the first 48 hours. Please do inform the school.

Q. Why has my child been asked to self isolate?

We are isolating those pupils who have had close contact with the pupil who has tested positive to ensure that if they do become symptomatic they don't pass the virus on causing an outbreak in school. This is a precautionary measure as set out in the government guidelines.

Q. How did you choose which children were asked to isolate?

We have to follow the close contact rules as set by the PHE, a link to these are on our website. They would not deem walking to school as a close contact.

Q. How do you contact parents

We will send a general email to the whole school advising that there is a positive case within school. A personalised email will be sent to those parents whose pupils need to isolate. We may also send a text message.

Q. What should my child do when isolating?

They should remain at home and access work via google classroom.

Q. Do family members have to stay at home

Currently family members do not need to isolate unless the pupil displays symptoms. Please read the most recent guidance which will be on the email sent home.

Q. How does my child access their work?

Work will be set via Google Classroom. If your child is having difficulty accessing this please contact tws_googlehelp@swale.at

Q. A friend of my child is isolating, why has my child not been asked to isolate?

Only those children who are deemed a close contact have been asked to isolate.

Q. Why am I being asked to isolate my child for less than 14 days?

The close contact criteria is applied by PHE if there is a positive case within a year group and they isolate for 14 days from last contact with the person who received a positive test.

Q. My child was in a class with the child that tested positive last week. Why have they not been asked to isolate?

Someone with a positive test can be deemed as infectious 48 hours before they show symptoms. We have applied close contact guidance and asked those to isolate who were in contact within that 48 hour window.

Q. What precautions is the school taking to ensure my child is safe?

We have followed a strict set of guidelines to ensure the school follows the COVID protocols of deep and regular cleaning, windows opened, sanitiser in every room, mask wearing and social distancing.

Q. I am going to keep my child away from school even though they have not been asked to isolate.

The Trust's position would be to unauthorise the absence whilst we are open. However, it is your decision and remote materials are available through Google Classroom. Ongoing absences cannot be authorised and could lead to fines but it is your decision to keep your children out of school.

Q. My child has been told to self isolate but I have had them tested which is negative, can they return to school?

No, all children who have been asked to self isolate must remain off school for the period in the letter as symptoms may show any time within the 14 days.

Q. How can it be safe for pupils to attend if there are cases in school?

This is an anxious time for everybody but with social distancing measures and the clinicians are reporting that the benefits of children being in school is better for their cognitive, academic development and mental health and far outweighs the risks. The evidence has emerged that there is a very low risk of children becoming unwell with coronavirus even those that are clinically vulnerable or with existing health conditions.

Q. What if we are a family with a clinically vulnerable person in the household?

The most recent guidance given to those individuals classed as extremely clinically vulnerable is that other household members do not need to follow the same restrictions. Many of our staff and pupils are shielding clinically vulnerable members of the household and are following government protocols to protect them but are not having to isolate themselves.

Q. How do you maintain children to be socially distanced whilst in school?

We remind children regularly, use whistles in the outdoor and communal areas, classrooms have been laid out in a socially distance appropriate way and more classroom space has been created to allow for this.

Q. How do I inform you my child has a positive test result?

Please email tws_covidemergency@swale.at a member of our Senior Team will contact you as soon as practicable.