Dear Parent/Carer,

This is to inform you, that as of Tuesday 15th September, Solihull and Birmingham are categorised as being at Tier 1 Covid 19 local restrictions.

The only difference to us in a school setting is that where secondary age students are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as corridors or communal areas where social distancing cannot be maintained.

**Therefore, as of Tuesday 15th September we will be requiring all students and staff to wear a face covering in corridors and other indoor spaces as outlined above.**

A face covering is considered as additional protection from Covid 19, and not a replacement for effective hand hygiene and social distancing measures. The academy has designed the school day and curriculum to ensure that communal contact both inside and outside the buildings is restricted to year group “bubbles” as much as possible, and there are several measures in place to protect students and staff.

Face coverings should be plain in colour, and should not include patterns, logos or any writing or emblem that could be considered offensive or inappropriate. Face covering must be worn properly, covering both nostrils and the mouth. They should not be cumbersome or heavy so that breathing should not be restricted.

Face coverings should be worn in the following circumstances:

* Movement between lessons on corridors
* During social time indoors (not when eating)
* When using toilet facilities

Students will be asked to remove their face coverings during lesson times (unless they have a known medical reason to wear one). Face coverings should be kept in students’ pockets or bag when not being worn. For hygiene reasons they should be stored in a small plastic bag. Students must not swap face coverings with each other, and they should not be on desks or surfaces at any time. At this stage, students will not be required to wear face masks outside.

It is essential that students are sensible with regards to this matter, and I would urge parents/ carers to reinforce this with your children. Could I also remind you to reinforce hand sanitising and social distancing with your child whilst he/ she is not on academy premises. Remember; Hands, face, space.

Many thanks for your support.



Mrs K Craig

Head of Academy

**Covid-19 related pupil absence**

*A quick reference guide for parents and staff (September 2020)*

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| **What to do if…**  | **Action Needed**  | **Return to school when…**  |
| …my child has Covid-19 symptoms.  | **- Do not come to school** - Contact school to inform us - Self-isolate the whole household - Get a test **Inform the school immediately about the test result**  | …the test comes back negative **or** a period of 10 days has passed since the symptoms started, and the child feels well.  |
| …my child tests positive for Covid-19.  | **- Do not come to school.** - **Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 10 days).** - Self-isolate the whole household.  | …10 days have passed since symptoms began, even if they still have a cough or loss of taste/smell. *(These symptoms can last for several weeks.)* **AND** the child feels well.  |
| …my child tests negative.  | - Contact school to inform us. - Discuss when your child can come back (same day/next day).  | …the test comes back negative.  |
| …my child is ill with symptoms not linked to Covid-19.  | - **Do not come to school.** - Contact school to inform us. - Ring on each day of illness.  | …after 48 hours following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea |
| …someone in my household has Covid-19 symptoms.  | - **Do not come to school.** - Contact school to inform us. - Self-isolate the whole household. - Household member to get a test. - **Inform school immediately about test result.**  | …the test comes back negative.  |
| …someone in my household tests positive for Covid-19.  | - **Do not come to school.** - **Contact school to inform us.** - **Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 14 days).** - Self-isolate the whole household.  | …the child has completed 14 days of isolation.  |
| …NHS test and trace has identified my child as a close contact of somebody with symptoms or confirmed Covid-19.  | - **Do not come to school.** - Contact school to inform us. - **Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 14 days).**  | …the child has completed 14 days of isolation.  |
| …NHS test and trace has identified a household member (other than my child) as a close contact of somebody with symptoms or confirmed Covid-19.  | - **The household member must self-isolate for 14 days.** Child can continue to attend school.  | …child can continue to attend school  |
| …a sibling attending another school has been sent home to self-isolate due to there being a positive case in their school.  | - **Sibling must self-isolate for 14 days.** - Erdington Academy School child(ren) can continue to attend.  | …child can continue to attend school  |