

Lucton School

Infection Control Policy – Covid 19 addition.

The school's First Aid Policy includes an Infection Control Policy which remains current. This document provides additional specific information as generated by the government and the Department for Education, relating specifically to the re-opening of schools.

Far more specific guidance and comprehensive detail is found within the differing 'age relative' risk assessments that the teaching staff are all working with. The following is an overview to assist parents and pupils in keeping safe and improving infection control at this difficult time.

June 2020

AVOID CONTACT WITH ANYONE WITH SYMPTOMS

At home

Families are asked to strictly follow all government lockdown guidance relating to minimising unnecessary contacts.

Before coming to school

Parents are asked to ensure that there are no symptoms exhibited before sending their child into school. The most obvious symptoms are high temperature and coughing, whilst the loss of taste and smell is also an indicator.

If in doubt, keep your child at home and if symptoms continue, consider calling 111 for advice.

School transport

Where possible, government guidance advises those who must work to avoid public transport and to a certain extent, whilst limiting the numbers on each bus, School buses do represent an enclosed space, so if you are able to bring your child to school yourself, please do so. With some of the school's drivers having to shield, there is also an issue, in that the school is unable to operate all routes at present.

Arrival at school

Staff are also asked to look out for any symptoms that may cause concern and either at the start of the day or at any point at which a concern is raised, the pupil should be isolated and the parents contacted to arrange collection. Staff must wear a mask or face shield, when dealing with a pupil who is exhibiting obvious Covid-19 symptoms.

FREQUENT HAND CLEANING AND GOOD HYGIENE PRACTICES

Hand washing

It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.

Changing and washing clothes daily

You will note that the blazer has been dropped from the uniform requirement at this time to allow parents to provide freshly washed clothes every day.

Do not bring equipment to and from school unnecessarily

All pupils are asked to leave their home pens, pencils etc. at home and use the equipment which is left at school, always ensuring they use the same items each day and not sharing with others

Masks, face shields and other Personal Protective Equipment

These items are available at school, though at present, will not be routinely used. They are being used on a limited basis in the Nursery, where very young children are being carried and handed from parent to staff and should always be used once suspicious symptoms are encountered.

REGULAR CLEANING OF THE SCHOOL AND CLASSES

Cleaning should not only be carried out before or after the teaching day, but regular cleaning of the toilet areas and door knobs and surfaces should continue to take place through the day.

More cleaners will be brought back into school as further year groups restart.

MINIMISE CONTACT AND MIXING AS FAR AS POSSIBLE

Social Distancing

It has been recognised by the government that the strict 2 metre social distancing is unlikely to be maintained in a school context and particularly with younger children. Even so, the advice is to do so where possible and at all times do the best to maintain your distance. The reduced numbers within the classes go some way to improving the situation.

All contact sports are to be avoided.

Bubbles

Where clearly defined groups exist, they should be maintained and not mixed together during breaktimes or sport. 'Bubbles' should be created as far as possible, whilst we appreciate that some specialist staff will inevitably move between groups within the school. Where this occurs, a more conscious approach to social distancing by the staff who are obliged to work across the groups is required.

At Lucton, throughout the closure, we have kept our boarding group separate from the vulnerable children and key worker children. As different year groups return, they will also be kept in separate 'bubbles'.

CASES OF COVID-19 AT SCHOOL

Should any pupil or staff member who has been present at school test positive for Covid-19, the school will follow the government guidelines at that time which may result in some classes being suspended for one or two weeks, depending upon the circumstances and the specific guidance.