

Barham Church of England Primary School



COVID Guidelines

National guidance states: *People who have been fully vaccinated are no longer having to self-isolate if they are a contact of a positive case; those under 18 years of age also no longer need to self-isolate if they are a contact of a positive case.*

We have conducted our own risk assessment at Barham and the following COVID guidance needs to be followed – some of which goes further than the national guidance to protect our pupils, families and staff.

We hope to avoid any outbreaks and ask families to support us in the approaches outlined below.

What are the main symptoms of COVID?

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/main-symptoms/>

If my child is sent home from school with one of the above main symptoms, do they need to take a test?

Yes, but if the test is negative they can return to school as soon as they feel better.

If someone in the household tests positive, can my child come to school?

No – not straight away. Children should stay off school and get a PCR test. If the test is negative, they can return to school so long as they have no symptoms. (This is an enhanced measure based on the school risk assessment to protect pupils and staff).

If my child tests positive for COVID, what happens?

Your child must self-isolate for 10 days.

If a pupil in my child's class tests positive, will I be informed?

Yes (whilst the child will not be named, we will have to ask permission from the positive child's parents). This will help you to remain vigilant to any developing symptoms in your child.

Will I be informed if my child is a close contact of the pupil who has tested positive?

Staff will identify 'high risk contacts'; these are children who have had prolonged close contact with the child who has tested positive. This is likely to be children who the positive case sits next to on a regular basis. We will inform these parents so that they can remain extra vigilant for symptoms or take their child for a test.

What happens if several children at school test positive?

If this happens we will involve our local health protection team and they will advise us if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of our 'outbreak management plan'. This may include wider testing or targeted closures of certain groups of classes.

What happens if a staff member tests positive?

The staff member will self-isolate for 10 days. The children in the class will be taught by a staff member or supply teacher.

If my child is self-isolating, will they get school work?

Yes. We will implement our remote learning procedure for any child self-isolating at home and if they are well enough, we expect them to complete the work and upload it onto their Seesaw account. Staff will liaise with parents as appropriate.

Will children be in bubbles?

This is no longer a requirement but the children will only be all together in assemblies and at lunchtimes. In both cases, there is a seating plan so that we know who is sitting close by each child. If cases rise locally we will revert to the bubble system we had in place last year.

If a parent has been identified as a close contact and is not required to self-isolate, can they still bring children to school?

Yes, but we would ask that you take some additional precautions. We ask that you wear a mask at drop off and pick up times and keep physical distance from other families and staff.

Will we be informed if the school guidelines change?

Yes

What other measures is the school taking to mitigate risks of COVID?

We are continuing with regular hand sanitising/washing and the KS2 one-way system. Classrooms will continue to be well-ventilated. HEPA filters (air purifiers) have been purchased for each classroom and carbon dioxide monitors to identify where ventilation needs to be improved. In addition, staff and children can continue to wear masks if preferred.

In all circumstances, please keep the school updated about any symptoms, close contact or positive cases. If you need to contact the school at the weekend, please email:

headteacher@barham.kent.sch.uk

If you have any other questions, please get in touch.