



Dereham Church of England Junior Academy

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Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The Department for Education have now released guidance for schools, in light of the new national restrictions which come in place as of today. They are clear that **'Schools continue to remain open for all children and young people as they have since the start of the autumn term for the duration of the national restrictions'** and their aim is that all pupils, in all year groups, remain in school full time. Whilst there will be a few children who are unable to come to school due to advice from their GP or clinician, the overwhelming majority of children are expected to attend.

Can I choose to keep my child at home and ask the school to provide home learning?

The short answer is 'no' unless your child has been identified by a doctor or clinician as extremely clinically vulnerable in which case we will talk to you about a package which is right for your child. Home learning is only provided when children are not able to attend school due to having to self-isolate whilst waiting for test results or having to complete a period of self-isolation. There is also an expectation that learning activities set are completed during this time, unless your child is not well enough to do so.

What about children who were previously shielding?

Guidance states that 'most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. Parents should be advised to speak to their child's GP or specialist clinician if they have not already done so to understand if their children should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable'. If confirmed by a **doctor** they are still within this category, you need to notify the school immediately, so we can risk assess and formulate a specific plan with you.

What if my child lives with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable?

The guidance states 'Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education'.

What if my child is clinically vulnerable but not clinically extremely vulnerable?

'Children who are clinically vulnerable or have underlying health conditions but are not clinically extremely vulnerable, may continue to attend school in line with current guidance.

What is the guidance on face coverings in schools?

In Primary schools and education settings, teaching Year 6 and below, there is no change to the existing position. It is not mandatory for staff and visitors to wear face coverings. However, in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible, settings have the right to recommend the use of face coverings. ***In our school***, staff who are on gate duty and who will have contact with children from outside of their own bubble/class WILL need to wear a face covering unless they are exempt from doing so. Other staff may choose to wear face coverings when outside of the



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classroom. If staff need to enter classes and have close contact (closer than 2m for longer than 15 minutes) with other children and staff they too will need to wear a face mask. **ALL parents and carers coming on to site at the end of the day (and ideally the morning too) MUST wear a face covering and endeavor to keep apart from other adults. This is particularly important during these new restrictions.**

We know that many of our children wear a face covering to come in to and to leave the school. They should have a bag with them to keep this in during the day for hygiene purposes.

What about breakfast club and out of school childcare provision?

Our breakfast club is still able to run and will continue to do so. Children are sat 2m apart at all times and there are effective cleaning and sanitising measures in place. Children are still able to attend out of school childcare provision, but you should seek reassurances from providers that they are adhering to all guidance set.

The guidance also states that 'parents are able to form a childcare bubble with another household for the purposes of information childcare, where the child is 13 or under (this would cover grandparents).

Should you have any specific questions relating to the new guidance or your own circumstances, please contact us, ideally through the MyEd app but if not via the school office or questions page on our website and we will contact you directly.

Many thanks for your continued support at this challenging time

Mrs Kelly Scott
Headteacher