

What are the key changes?

1. Mixing and 'bubbles'

Keeping pupils in year group or classroom bubbles, to reduce mixing, is no longer a requirement for schools. Children will be able to mix freely both in the school building and when on the playground (e.g full school assemblies and more access to group activities).

2. Tracing close contacts

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace; school is no longer expected to undertake contact tracing. If your child is identified as a close contact, you will receive this information directly from the NHS. Due to their age, pupils should only self-isolate if they have symptoms or if they get a positive test result (PCR or Lateral Flow). *See below for more information.*

3. Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised for staff and visitors, either in classrooms or in communal areas. Parents/Carers will no longer be requested to wear face coverings when dropping off/collecting children from school.

What will stay the same?

Coronavirus hasn't gone away so there will still be a need for us to follow basic measures within our school to avoid the spread of the virus. We will still operate under a risk assessment and you can view this on our school website. Some of the measures we will be taking:

1. Testing remains important. School will ensure that, when applicable, PCR testing is encouraged (e.g pupil with symptoms). Staff testing will continue to take place twice weekly.
2. Ensuring good hygiene including frequent and thorough hand cleaning and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
3. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes.
4. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated (whilst maintaining a comfortable temperature).
5. Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19 (e.g ensuring non-attendance of those with symptoms or positive test result).

What if someone tests positive or has symptoms? Do they need to isolate?

Anyone showing **symptoms** (even if mild) should self-isolate straight away and book a [PCR test](#) (a test that is sent to the lab) as soon as possible.

The 3 symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

You should also self-isolate straight away if:

- you've **tested positive** for Covid-19 either according to a PCR test or a lateral flow device test – this means you have the virus. If you get a positive LFD test you should book a PCR test. A negative PCR test will override a positive LFD test.
- someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive (**unless you are not required to self-isolate**) *see below if this applies to you*
- you've been told to self-isolate, by the NHS, following contact with someone who tested positive ([what to do](#)).

Any pupils showing symptoms should self-isolate immediately and a PCR test should be taken.

Children with symptoms must not return to school until the result has been received.

And what will happen for people who have been in contact with positive cases?

Individuals are **not required to self-isolate** if they live in the same household as someone with Covid-19, or are a close contact of someone with Covid-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are **below the age of 18 years and 6 months** (all Ralph Butterfield Primary pupils)
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved Covid-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. **They do not need to isolate while awaiting the PCR test result.** We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so; we only need notifying of positive results.

If none of the above applies, people should self-isolate [as per the instructions from NHS Test and Trace](#).

**All pupils, having been identified as a close contact,
should continue to attend school as normal.**

This includes whilst awaiting a test result, so long as the child has no symptoms.

What if there are a number of positive cases in school?

If there are a number of cases in one class or group (e.g after school activity), we will refer to our **Outbreak Management Plan**. This plan identifies the additional measures that would be introduced, if we were advised to do so, by Public Health. Schools must do everything they can to minimise the impact on education and attendance; restricting attendance would be only as a last resort. You can find a copy of the plan on the school website.

More information on the guidance we have followed in regard to our Outbreak Management Plan can be found [here](#).

I feel unsure about these changes, within school, what should I do?

Since March 2020, we have all worked together within an ever changing set of circumstances; we are here to help guide you through this most recent set of school guidance. We are fully approachable and would like you to feel comfortable in contacting the school office at any time, either by email (ralphbutterfield.school@york.gov.uk) or telephone (01904 768325 option 3).