

April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID Update Summer 2022

We have written to you previously about the Trust's cautious decision-making in regard to central government COVID guidance changes.

Following updates released on 1st April, we have made the decision as a Trust to maintain the caution for a period of time due to the levels of infection across the country.

We therefore request your support as follows:

- As there is no testing now, pupils who are showing symptoms of COVID should remain at home for 5 days and return once they have no fever following this time period
- If a pupil becomes symptomatic at school then we will require them to be picked up immediately and remain at home for at least 5 days as per the previous bullet point
- Any pupil with confirmed or suspected COVID will not be permitted to attend school, in order to protect other pupils and staff from infection

We will review our approach regularly by monitoring what is happening elsewhere and ensuring we keep any risk of to a minimum.

We appreciate that the Trust's decision differs slightly from central government guidance about 3 days for any child or young person aged below 18. However, in our schools, all individuals are in close contact with people from outside their households in enclosed, often crowded spaces, with limited ventilation in some areas.

We also have pupils and staff who are considered to be vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), and high or higher-risk and therefore at risk of serious illness, who according to the guidance, are now required to be in school. As I am sure you understand, any child attending school when they are potentially infectious would be putting these vulnerable pupils and staff at an unacceptable risk.

Like all our families, we want our pupils back in school. Throughout the pandemic, we have followed and responded to the guidance of the DfE and the NHS in the best interest of the pupils, staff and wider society, even when, as on this occasion there is ambiguity regarding the advice we are receiving from different agencies.



We will review this situation on a regular basis and continue to monitor the situation both at a local and national level.

We are extremely grateful for your understanding and co-operation.

Yours faithfully

Helena Hamilton
Headteacher
Bromley Beacon Academy, Orpington Campus

