



West End Academy

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Headteacher: Chris Johnson

Monday 6th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Return to School on Tuesday 7th September

I hope you have all enjoyed a restful summer break and that your children are looking forward to attending school in September.

This letter will explain some of the changes made for the autumn term. As per the letter shared from Mr Dickinson, CEO, there is an updated Risk Assessment and newly compiled Outbreak Management Plan, available for you to review on our school website. This can be found under Letters to Parents. These documents provide an outline of the overall strategy and steps taken by all Waterton academies.

Please see the below information, relevant to West End Academy specifically, to aid you in the return to school.

Start time and End time

There is no longer a staggered drop off and pick up in place. Both school gates will open at 8:45am and you will be able to use the gate which is most convenient for you. Children should be dropped off and picked up at the classroom door. School will finish at 3:15pm.

Face masks

In line with Government guidance, we are no longer recommending that masks be worn when dropping off or collecting children.

Social Distancing and Bubbles

There is no longer a requirement for social distancing on school grounds. We understand that some families may choose to keep their distance, and therefore ask that parents be respectful of each other's space, especially at busy times.

From September, except in the case of an identified outbreak, there will no longer be a system of 'bubbles' in school. Children will still spend the majority of their time with their class, but they can now mix with other classes at break times and in other relevant circumstances.

Self-Isolation

The latest guidance around self-isolation for close contacts of a positive case is as follows:

If someone you live with has symptoms of COVID-19, or has tested positive for COVID-19, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
- you're under 18 years, 6 months old
- you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

As this includes all children and fully vaccinated adults, there will be no requirement for a class to isolate in the event of a positive case. In the event of an outbreak being identified, the Outbreak Management Plan will be followed, and parents will be informed of next steps.



Quarantine and Travel

Any families who have returned from a foreign holiday in the 10 days prior to returning to school, must check the Government guidance around travel and quarantine, found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england>

Attendance

The Waterton Academy Trust [Attendance Policy](#) remains in effect. It is expected that children attend school as normal and that absences for any reason are reported to the office.

Symptoms and Testing

All staff will continue to be encouraged to participate in twice weekly lateral flow testing for asymptomatic individuals. Tests are also available to parents, and can be ordered here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

The main Covid-19 symptoms are a high temperature, a new continuous cough and a loss or change to sense of taste or smell. If a member of the household has symptoms, but your child does not they should still attend as long as they can safely be brought to school without breaching self-isolation rules.

If your child has any of the above symptoms they must not come to school and must stay at home and self-isolate. Any adults in the household who are not fully vaccinated (but have no medical reason not to be vaccinated) must also self-isolate. The symptomatic person and unvaccinated adults may only leave the house to take a PCR test. Tests can be arranged here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. If this test is negative, the symptomatic child may return to school. See below for what to do if the test is positive.

Reporting a positive case

In the unfortunate event of your child having a positive Covid-19 test, they must stay at home and isolate for 10 days after the first onset of symptoms (or test date if asymptomatic). Parents should report this positive test result to the school office as soon as possible. At the end of the 10 day period, if your child is feeling well and no longer has a high temperature they may return to school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their continued support, and to wish the whole school community well for the coming academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C Johnson
Headteacher