



Unity Education Trust

Crown Road, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 4AG

Telephone 01362 696884

www.unityeducationtrust.uk

Chief Executive Officer:

Mr Glyn Hambling B.Ed. (Hons), M.Sc., N.P.Q.H

17th December 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

Latest DfE Covid-19 guidance for schools

As we approach the Christmas holidays, we would like to thank you for your continued support for our schools to keep children and staff safe.

On Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 was introduced by the Government.

All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The Government state that daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education. In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others.

If you are notified by NHS Test and Trace that you or your child are a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the Government's [Online Reporting System](#). Although we are not permitted to ask you for proof of testing, you may of course choose to tell your school that your child is testing and the results of their test. **If your child tests negative, they can continue to attend their education setting.** Outside of the education setting, you should continue to follow the advice set out in the Government's [Sunday 12 December press release](#). This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return to school in January.

If you or your child test positive through an LFD test, you should self-isolate and either book a PCR test or [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, you must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, you no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

We will continue to monitor any Government guidance that is released between now and our return in January and we encourage you to keep a close watch on our messaging service for any updates we need to inform you of.

Thank you for continuing to help us protect each other in the hope that we are all able to spend a lovely, safe Christmas holiday with family and friends and we look forward to welcoming children back on Thursday 6th January 2022.

Kind regards