



# The Edith Borthwick School

## COVID 19 Operational Guidance

Updated: 18/4/22

### WHAT IS THE CURRENT NATIONAL & LOCAL SITUATION?

**The government is removing remaining domestic restrictions in England from 24/2/22. The new national strategy is called 'Living with COVID-19'. COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education remains**

DfE Special school guidance states that our priority is to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health.

### WHAT IS THE SCHOOL'S VIEW?

We are committed to providing a safe environment and have undertaken a robust risk assessment to minimise, as reasonably as we can, against the risk presented within school. We have considered government guidance and alongside support from Essex County Council, we have produced a detailed plan to ensure all learners, their families, school staff and visitors are as safe as possible while they are on site.

At The Edith Borthwick School, a range of approaches and actions will be taken. These can be seen as a set of controls that, when in place, creates a much safer system where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced.

Our risk assessment has been updated and this can be found on the school website. We will be reviewing the RA and plan regularly, taking into account any change in strategy.

### HOW IS THE SCHOOL ORGANISED NOW?

Learners will continue to be organised into distinct class groups, which will be their base. Over the term we will begin mixing bubbles more (as appropriate) for specific activities, e.g assemblies.

Following a Government review on 1/4/22, Lateral flow testing has now ceased and is no longer advised. Schools have been directed to return any excess tests and are not allowed to share these with staff/families.

From 1 April, updated guidance will advise people with symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19, and a high temperature or who feel unwell, to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.

From 1 April, anyone with a positive COVID-19 test result will be advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious.

### CONTROL MEASURES

You should:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone, including regular hand washing & 'catch it, kill it, bin it'
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes in line with government guidance.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated

#### Face coverings

We encourage staff and secondary aged learners to wear face coverings in communal areas and busy areas of school (corridors, staff room, hall).

*This is no longer mandatory and we ask our community to respect personal choice.*

## SCHOOL MEALS

The school kitchen is fully open and the menu can be found on the website.

At present, meals will be delivered to classes and they will eat in class. We will return to dining in the hall from 25/4/22 for those classes who are applicable.

## LEARNER OR ADULT WHO ARE SYMPTOMATIC

Updated guidance advises:

- adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature
- children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend
- adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice is 3 days.

If your child is not well enough to attend school, please do keep them at home and send them back when they are symptom free.

## CLEANING

Each class bubble is provided with essential cleaning supplies and PPE, including anti-bacterial spray, hand soap, alcohol gel, washing up liquid, screen cleaner, disposable cloths, gloves, aprons and where appropriate visors.

Staff will wipe down surfaces, equipment, chairs frequently throughout the day and ensure all doors and windows are closed at the end of the day to enable the cleaning team to clean thoroughly.

Staff with responsibilities to clean will follow the [PHE guidance on cleaning for non-healthcare settings](#). Specified COVID cleaning staff will clean frequently used areas, such as door handles and bannisters, throughout the day.