



# Whitburn Church of England Academy

An Academy with Specialist Status in Maths and Computing

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*'Excellence for All'*

4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## Updated Arrangements – January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, I would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year and, once again, extend our utmost thanks to you all for your ongoing support.

Having completed our on-site testing today, we look forward to welcoming the whole school back tomorrow. Scholars' buses will be running as normal. ***If your child did not have an on-site test today, for the health and safety of all, please can they complete an LFD test tonight or first thing tomorrow morning, before coming in to school.*** They then need to continue to test twice weekly at home. Once again please log the results to NHS Test and Trace via <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and also report your child's LFD result to school via this link [here](#). Our next delivery of LFD home test kits is expected next week, and these will be distributed as soon as they arrive.

As you are aware from the press, the government announced some additional measures for schools over the coming weeks, as well as some changes to isolation rules. These are outlined below for your reference.

### **Face coverings in classrooms for Year 7 and above**

Face coverings will continue to be worn by students in classrooms, unless exempt. Students, staff and visitors need to wear these too when moving around the premises. Face coverings must also continue to be worn on public transport and in local shops. These measures will be in place until Wednesday 26 January, when they will be reviewed. It is an expectation that your child comes to school each day with a suitable face covering or, if applicable, displays their exemption card/lanyard.

### **Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for Covid-19 (reduced to 7 days provided there are two negative LFD tests on day 6 and day 7)**

The full self-isolation period is 10 days. However if an individual gets a **negative LFD** test result no earlier than **day 6** of the self-isolation period and a **further negative test 24 hours later (day 7)** then the individual no longer needs to complete the full 10 days. They may end their self-isolation after the second negative test *provided they do not have a high temperature*.

The diagram on the following page helpfully summarises the current government guidance.

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**Document available in large font, alternative language or audio format on request**



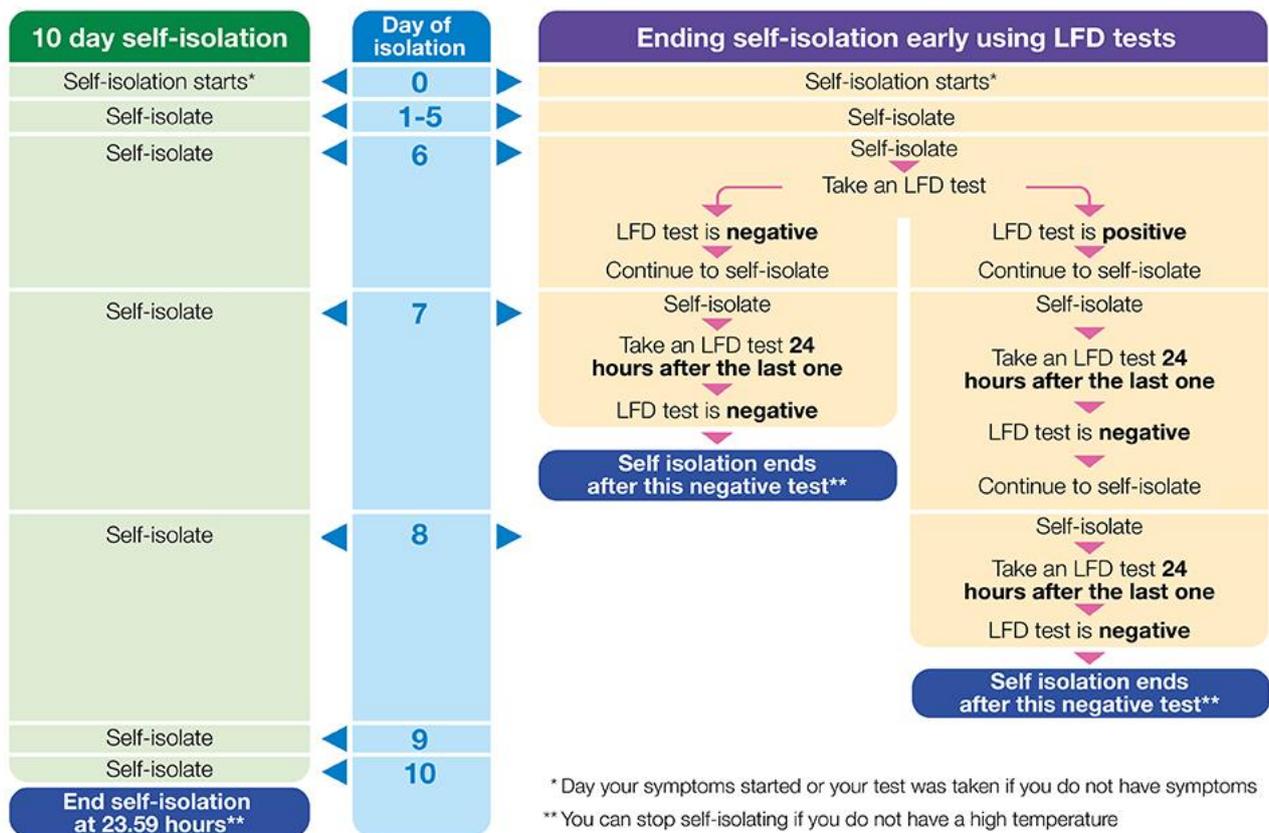
Maths & Computing

National Teaching School  
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## Examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive COVID-19 test result



Source: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

### Daily testing for close contacts for Covid-19

Current Public Health advice states that those close contacts who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months ***“should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time”***. We ask for your support in adhering to this.

### Vaccinations

Young people aged 12-15 will be offered the second dose of the Pfizer-BioNtech COVID-19 vaccine 12 weeks from their first dose. NHS England has confirmed that healthy school-aged children aged 12-15 will be able to receive their second dose in school this term, as well as those who didn't take up the offer of the first vaccine.

The school age immunisation service (SAIS) is currently drafting a plan to visit schools from the end of January/early February to administer vaccines to all consenting students. We will share further details when we have these. Parents and carers can also book first and second vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the NHS booking system linked here. [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/booking/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination)

The DfE have also confirmed that boosters will be offered to ‘at risk’ 12-15 year olds and to all 16 to 17 year olds. ‘At risk’ includes those who are in a clinical risk group, or who are a household contact of someone (of any age) who is immunosuppressed. Further information will be published by the NHS shortly on how this will be rolled out.

## **Contingency Plans**

Given the challenging and ever-changing situation that we find ourselves in, we have continued to keep our contingency plans under review. Unfortunately, if national cases maintain their present trajectory, we are anticipating substantial disruption to staffing and attendance over the coming half term. The health and safety and education of our students remain paramount. We will continue to work in close liaison with Public Health and the DfE during this period of potential disruption and appreciate your understanding if there are times when difficult decisions have to be made regarding some classes or cohorts.

Remote education will continue to be in place, via TEAMS, for those students who are isolating and who feel well enough to engage with this.

## **Examinations**

All external and internal exams scheduled for this month will be happening as planned.

Once again, thank you for your understanding and support and we will continue to communicate with you on a regular basis throughout this term.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J E Crowe', written in a cursive style.

**J E Crowe**  
**Principal**