



Mission Statement

Guided by Jesus' love and example, we use our gifts to grow, pray and learn as a community; united in faith.

7th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and new year with your families.

As we approach the start of the new term and welcoming you and your children back on Monday 10th January, I wanted to write to update you all on the most recent guidance from the DfE with regards to the Coronavirus pandemic. Currently as I write this letter, there are 1865 confirmed cases of COVID per 100,000 in Alvaston (the number has increased by 765 since the same time last week). This number is slightly higher than cases confirmed in Derby overall. The new variant, Omicron, is reported to spread very easily and there are a significant number of cases recorded nationally.

DfE Advice – January 2022

Changes to testing and the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

- From Tuesday 11th January, if an individual tests positive on a LFD test, they DO NOT need to get a confirmatory PCR test. They will need to start their isolation immediately from the day their symptoms started or the day of the positive LFD test.
- Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who receive a positive LFD test result for COVID-19 was reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless someone cannot test for any reason.
- Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart (we recommend taking the tests at 7am or before so that children can return to school on day 7 if they are negative and do not have a high temperature).
- Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation.
- If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education or childcare setting from day 7.
- This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion.
- Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.
- Health and social care workers, including those working in education settings, should continue to follow guidance for their sector on taking LFD tests on day 8, 9 and 10. For more information, visit [COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients or residents in health and social care settings](#).
- Further information, including examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms, is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).



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**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



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Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, 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.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

Working with the St Ralph Sherwin CMAT, we will continue to follow the DfE guidance but will also take guidance and advice from Derby City Council's Public Health England advisor so the above may change if we see a rise in number of cases locally or nationally during the return to school and beyond.

We will continue with the following in school –

- All essential visitors and parents on the school site or in the building will be asked to wear face coverings and follow distancing guidance to protect themselves and others
- Staff will continue to wear masks in all communal areas eg staffrooms, corridors, communal work areas, hall etc
- Enhanced cleaning of the school during the school day, regular handwashing/sanitising for pupils and staff and staggered break and lunchtimes will continue

If you have any questions or queries, or need to discuss or report a positive LFD case of COVID-19, please contact the school office on admin@djf.srscmat.co.uk or 01332 572154.

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Best Wishes

Mrs Brett - Head Teacher