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January 2022 – Additional Measures

Introduction

The government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to operate as normally as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic, including prioritising face-to-face education. This document outlines additional requirements and actions taken at Scott Medical and Healthcare College from January 2022 to both ensure government guidance is followed, reduce the spread of Covid-19 and maximise the possibility of maintaining face-to-face education.

Face covering

From January 2022 face coverings are now required to be worn in classrooms. The advice is short term only, to support pupils and teachers as they return to school this term and builds on the guidance shared in December 2021 that required face coverings during transitions, roll call and indoor social time. The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until Wednesday 26 January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed.

Scott College holds a small supply of contingency stock of face coverings. These are held by Heads of Year and available upon request. Parents are responsible for ensuring their child has their own face covering, parents requiring support should contact the school. When pupils need to use a face covering from the contingency stock this will be recorded and shared with parents by email.

In line with government guidance there are circumstances where people are not able to wear a face covering. To facilitate these exemptions, we ask that parents contact the Head of Year so that our team can provide an exemption lanyard and communicate their exemption to staff.

Testing

At home LF test kits will be continued to be distributed to pupils via tutor time. All staff and pupils are strongly encouraged to test twice a week. In the event of an outbreak staff and pupils may be asked to test more frequently.

Isolation and close contacts

From 14 December 2021, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result.

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. 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 setting from day 8.

Workforce shortages

Scott College will prioritise delivering as normal an education as possible despite likely operational challenges related to workforce shortages, this includes prioritising face-to-face education. As a result, it may be required that we take a flexible approach to learning. This flexible approach may include:

1. Combining classes together, where pupil numbers are small, to maximise the efficient use of each teacher
2. Redirecting pupils back to mainstream lessons from intervention and tuition lessons to regain staffing capacity
3. Cancelling planned events that would otherwise have generated staffing shortfalls
4. Delivering remote led or self-study covered classes of multiple groups in larger teaching spaces
5. Using support staff and those teaching staff with reduced loading more flexibly to create capacity for classroom teaching
6. Removal of the Wednesday enrichment period resulting in a 2:40pm finish on a Wednesday.

If the operational challenge can not be managed via these flexible approaches above we may be required to move some year groups to remote education from home. The preferred method for this will be live streaming teaching. Students working from home will continue to receive regular feedback and check ins.

For some children continuing to have the protective factor of face-to-face education is vital. Throughout the pandemic we have continued to provide on-site places, for those vulnerable students. These pupils are now defined more broadly in the latest guidance as:

- those with a social worker
- those with an Education, Health and Care Plan
- a group of children considered locally, including by settings and local authorities, to be 'otherwise vulnerable'
- children known to children's social care services in the past
- children whose home circumstances might be particularly challenging because of domestic abuse, parental offending, adult mental health issues, and drug and alcohol addiction

Should operational challenges require some year groups to work from home Scott College , via the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Lara Gill) will contact and make on-site arrangements for any student in those above categories. The list above is not intended to be exhaustive and local assessment will be based on knowledge of family and community risk.