

ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Ania Hildrey, M.Ed, B.Ed(Hons), NPQH

24 June 2021



Dear Families

Ref: Covid-19 risk prevalence, dynamic risk assessment and management

I am writing to you to update you on our management of Covid-19 at Abbot's Lea School and to reassure you of our continued and uncompromised commitment to prioritising health protection of all – our students, our staff and the respective families and communities, at all times. You will be aware, from the ever-present Covid-19 news updates, of the national and local picture; the cases are on the rise and our region has, yet again, been hit hard by the latest Delta variant.

The statistics shared with all schools on a weekly basis showed, for example, that, a week before May half term we had 10 cases in a population of 100,000, and shortly after our return from the break, those figures reached 145 in 100,000. They continue to rise and the most affected groups are children and young people (this may be linked to that population not yet being vaccinated).

Our school continues to be affected, too. We have experienced a rapid increase in positive cases of Covid-19 diagnosis amongst our school community and a spike in students and staff developing symptoms which warrant immediate self-isolation and the need for a confirmatory PCR test (symptomatic testing can be done at a testing centre or by requesting a home test which then gets sent to the lab for analysis).

Where the PCR testing can be done, we keep our Bubble open. Where the testing cannot be done (there are some circumstances where, mainly due to our students' complex needs, this is at times the case), or the student or family refuse to engage with the testing (which any person is entitled to do), we opt for a cautious approach and we make a difficult decision to direct all those known to have been in close and direct contact to self-isolate, either for the whole period or until we manage to support PCR testing to take place after all. There are, at times, also delays in gaining reliable information and again, we opt for safety first approach every time. We never share, and nor will we, particular personal circumstances surrounding such complex decisions but I want to assure families that we do our absolute best to prioritise safety but also always do the right thing by our students' education. Despite all of us being "pandemic-fatigued" and utterly frustrated with the ongoing disruptions to our lives, we have to believe that better times are ahead and that every little thing we do to help us get there is taking us one step closer to more freedoms and more stable times. Please use lateral flow tests frequently and if you or your child are unwell, please do keep them at home until they are better.

I thank you again for your support and patience – I am fully aware of the impact all of the last minute changes have on families' lives.

Yours faithfully

Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher