

Dear parents and carers,

Covid-19 precautions over the summer and next term

I am writing to you about our Covid-19 arrangements over the summer and in the autumn term. I would like to thank everyone for their support this year. Our young people have shown great maturity in following the Covid-19 precautions we have had in place and adapted well to the changes.

As you may know, the Government has published new guidance for schools around Covid-19 precautions to come into effect shortly. You [can read the guidance here](#) or by searching 'Schools COVID-19 operational guidance Step 4.'

In September, what precautions will be the same?

Hand Hygiene

Students and staff will continue to wash their hands thoroughly and often.

'Catch it, bin it, kill it'

We will continue to follow good hygiene around sneezing, using and then disposing tissues safely.

Cleaning

We will continue to have a thorough cleaning schedule with regular cleaning equipment and a focus on frequently touched areas.

Ventilation

We will continue to ensure that the school is well ventilated.

COVID-19 symptoms and positive tests

Students and staff must not come to school if they have symptoms of Covid, have had a positive test, or are required to quarantine. If a student shows symptoms at the Academy, parents will need to collect them and request a test.

The household (including any symptoms) should follow the [Public Health England stay at home guidance](#) for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Risk assessments

Senior leaders at the Academy will continue to meet regularly to assess the risk at school. If necessary and in consultation with Public Health England, we will make changes to our arrangements to increase the precautions we have in place.

Asymptomatic testing

Testing will remain an important aspect of reducing the risk of infection spreading within school.

As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school pupils will receive 2, on-site lateral flow device (LFD) tests, 3 to 5 days apart, just before or on their return in the autumn term.

In addition, those students and staff who consent will continue to take two LFD tests each week at home in the new term until the end of September, when the government will review this.

Principal - Mr James Pape

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Staff and students with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay-at-home guidance. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, they should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive LFD test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

In September, what precautions are changing?

Bubbles

The government's new advice explains that they are no longer recommending that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups (or bubbles). This means that assemblies will be able to resume, lunch service can return to something like normal, and that the pupils will be able to use all the subject-specific classrooms.

We will spend some time over the summer considering what will work best around pupils moving around the academy. It is a requirement of the new guidance that we can quickly move back to bubbles should positive cases rise within the academy or in our local community.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

After the 19th July schools are no longer responsible for contact tracing. Instead, NHS Test and Trace will contact the family of the pupil with a confirmed case to identify who they have been in close contact with.

In addition, from September children under the age of 18 will not be required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a confirmed case. Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and advised to take a PCR Test.

Face coverings

From September, the Government have explained that face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff, and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

We know however that staff, visitors, and older pupils may still want to continue to wear a face covering.

Those who chose to wear a face covering must follow the safety guidance around how to put one on and take one off safely.

It is a requirement of the new guidance that we can quickly move back to wearing face coverings should positive cases rise within the academy or in our local community and Public Health England advise us to. As ever this is a lot of information, but we wanted to provide you with a full update. We are of course pleased that some of the COVID-19 precautions are reducing, however we will only open safely if everyone continues to take the pandemic seriously.

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The logo for Oasis Academy Don Valley features the word "Oasis" in white on a green background, with "Academy Don Valley" in white on a blue background below it. A dark blue diagonal line runs across the top of the page, passing behind the logo.

Oasis

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Children must only come to school if they are well, and everyone is responsible for following all precautions that remain in place. As is clear in the guidance, we as a school will be prepared to reintroduce further COVID-19 precautions should it be necessary, and we are advised to by Public Health England.

We will be in touch nearer to the reopening of the Academy to confirm our arrangements for students return in September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Pape".

Principal
Oasis Academy Don Valley

Principal - Mr James Pape

Leeds Road, Sheffield, S9 3TY

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