



4th November, 2021

Dear Parents, Carers

RE: Additional measures to reduce Suffolk's COVID-19 transmission in education settings

We have received a communication from Suffolk County Council thanking our parents and carers for working with them to reduce the number of COVID-19 cases in schools and other education settings. The local authority appreciates that everyone is doing their best to manage outbreaks and support each other but have advised that unfortunately, it is necessary to implement additional measures due to the continued rise in Suffolk's case rate, particularly in schools and other education settings.

The number of cases within children and young people aged 10-14 has increased by almost 15% and cases amongst 15-19 year olds has increased by 32% in the past week of data. This means that in October alone school children in Suffolk have lost 26,264 days of education due to positive cases of COVID-19.

With this in mind, Suffolk County Council are asking education leaders to implement additional measures in education settings, including primary, secondary, further and higher education.

With immediate effect at Olive Academy Suffolk we will be encouraging staff and pupils to wear face coverings in communal areas outside of the classroom, although this will not be mandatory.

In addition, we will be restricting entry to the academy to essential visitors only and any visitors will be asked to wear a face covering while on-site, unless exempt for medical reasons.

These measures will be reviewed during the week commencing Monday 15 November 2021.

You may be aware that some schools in the area have introduced a new sibling policy, advising children and young people aged between 4 and 18 years to stay at home when a sibling they live with tests positive for COVID-19. However, as we have not experienced a significant outbreak of COVID-19 in our academy this guidance has **not** yet been issued to us. Your child will continue to attend the academy if a sibling has tested positive (unless they have symptoms themselves) but we would encourage them to take a PCR test if advised to do so. If this advice changes, we will contact you further.

A reminder that we should all continue to take simple actions to reduce transmission:

- Staying at home when feeling unwell
- Washing hands regularly with soap
- Wearing face coverings when needed, including on public transport and in crowded indoor settings

- Maintaining a safe distance from others
- Meeting outside

Thank you for your continued support in helping to keep our staff and pupils safe.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Burnett', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Alastair Burnett
Headteacher

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