

Hope House School

Transforming the lives of children living on the Autistic Spectrum

31st March 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and School Community,

The school today has had advice from the Department for Education (DfE) regarding the changes to COVID measures for schools, including Special Education Needs (SEN) Schools in England.

The advice states that SEN Schools will no longer use asymptomatic testing, and this is not recommended, and we will no longer be able to order testing kits. Also, even if we have surplus stocks of testing kits, we will no longer be able to hand these out to young people or staff.

Government advice for adults and children with symptoms is as follows:

- adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature
- children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college, or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend
- adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days

The school may however have periods of time, due to staff having symptoms of COVID-19 that we are affected with low numbers of staff. At these times the school will initiate its contingency plans, under the Business Continuity Plan and Remote Learning Policy. This means we may need to move to a remote offer of learning, the Remote Learning Policy will be available on our website after the Easter Holiday. The policy states how we will operate a learning offer to our young people at times of low staffing and/or emergency contingency planning.

As always, we will keep families informed as soon as we need to make any changes and we appreciate all your support and help when we need to make these decisions.



Kind Regards
Joanne Kiernan
Interim Headteacher