

Lateral Flow Testing in specialist schools

At The Oaks we are committed to keeping everyone as safe as possible. We are testing all staff at The Oaks twice a week. We also need your consent to help all pupils do their lateral flow tests.

To help the pupils to do the test we need a completed form from a parent or guardian. **By returning the form with your child's details you are giving consent.** We **WILL NOT** force any child to do a test if they refuse or are distressed by it. Your child is welcome in school whether they have a test or not. Please read the information below and return the consent form to school as soon as possible.

All pupils will have two tests 3-5 days apart on their return to school.

After this we will send you a supply of home testing kits. If you would like us to continue to support your child to undertake lateral flow tests in school during the Autumn term. Please let us know

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us

Information from the Government

Asymptomatic testing Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. That is why, whilst some measures are relaxed, others will remain, and if necessary, in response to the latest epidemiological data, we all need to be prepared to step measures up or down in future depending on local circumstances.

Over the summer, staff and secondary pupils should have continued to test regularly if they are attending settings that remain open, such as summer schools and out of school activities based in school settings.

As pupils will have potentially mixed with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school pupils should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term.

Pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

Staff should undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed.

Secondary schools should also retain a small asymptomatic testing site (ATS) on-site until further notice so they can offer testing to pupils who are unable to test themselves at home.

Confirmatory PCR tests

Staff and pupils 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, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow 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

The Government will review the use of tests at the end of September, at The Oaks we will be continuing testing until at least October Half Term 2021