



The Birley Academy
A L.E.A.D. Academy

Headteacher: Gina Newton

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GN/DS

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will know, we are now getting ready to welcome all of our pupils into school to resume face-to-face teaching. As part of the measures to keep pupils, their families and school staff safe the government has asked all schools to put in a testing system. The tests are called Lateral Flow Devices and are designed for people who do not have symptoms. This means that we are being asked to provide three tests for all students between 8, March and 19 March. After this the government are clear that students will have enough knowledge and confidence to do the tests at home rather than in school and will be making two home tests a week available to all students.

Staff in school are also being asked to take two tests a week.

To be able to carry out these tests you will need to give your consent. A consent link will be sent to you via School Comms. Should you not have access to this system, please complete the consent form, which can be found on the link below:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=HCBDF7GBoEOqWbJW_OwBUWL51uLhughFsqdb91K1B3NUOUIFQU9XRzIjMkIJSVdSQ0ZSVk1QN1JUQj4u

Are these tests compulsory?

No they are not. It is up to you to give informed consent to carry these out.

If I do not give consent will my child be allowed in school?

Yes. No child will be denied their place in school because they haven't had a test unless they have symptoms.

There is a lot in the media about the unreliability of the tests so why have them?

As we now know, many people have this virus and remain well and without any symptoms throughout but they are still infectious to those around them. Even with symptoms you can be infectious for two days before the symptoms come on. These tests will give more chance of identifying people in school who are infectious and will therefore help to protect others in school as well as our friends, family and community outside school.

Who will do the tests on my child?

Your child will take the swab for the test themselves. They will be talked through it by one of the team made up from trained staff and volunteers who will ensure that they take the swab correctly, help them if they need it and reassure them if they are anxious. Taking the swab can be a bit uncomfortable but isn't painful.

This centre has been up and running now since just after Christmas and has been testing the school staff since. The centre is being run by school staff and agency staff

All of our staff have received NHS training in the running and processing of LFD (Lateral Flow Devices)

Becki Jones, is a Science technician in the academy and also one of the school first aiders, she has years of experience of working in hospital laboratories and has overseen the set up and daily running of this facility.

Jane Dyson, is normally the academy DT technician and school first aid officer and is one of the team leaders running the test facility on a daily basis

Bev Chadburn, is the academy's Senior Science technician and a qualified first aid officer. She has been working on a daily basis as a team leader in the test facility.

Caroline Dyson is a member of the academy Services Team, and has been working in the test facility as the receptionist, booking people for their tests and also as result recorder.



Registered no. 08296921



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Kelly Turner is also a member of the academy Services Team and has been working in the test centre since we opened in January and has been mainly processing the samples.

These staff are able to work in all areas, and will oversee the rest of the staff

What if my child tests positive?

If your child tests positive on a lateral flow device, we will inform you immediately. You must then take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. The school may be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home. During the time while waiting for the PCR result (via text/email) they will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, pupils who test negative will be able to stay in school/college and resume their activities as normal. Parents will be informed of negative test results via text/email.

Who will get the results?

The tests are processed on site immediately and the results are usually back in about 30 minutes. The results are known to the academy test centre and are sent to the contact details on the registration form. The school has to inform track and trace of all cases whether negative or positive or void.

I hope that this has answered your questions and that you feel you can make an informed decision about consent.

Please do not hesitate to contact the academy if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully

Gina Newton
Headteacher

