

Covid Handbook for Parents and Students (February 28th 2022)

Context

We are currently planning to manage next half term in the following manner:

- Make some modest relaxations to our Covid control measures with effect from February 28th.
- Wait for the planned vaccination programme for our students on the 9th and 10th March.
- Give serious consideration to ending all Covid control measures from March 24th (i.e. two weeks after the student vaccination programme).

We are aware that further national Covid announcements may be made during the half-term holiday. We will review this advice when it is published and update these plans accordingly.

Key changes to the last version of this guidance are shown in red.

Dress Code

Normal dress code and uniform expectations will apply as normal.

Equipment

Equipment can still be shared between groups but we will try to reduce this when it is easy to do so. Exercise books can still be collected and returned in the normal fashion.

Face Coverings

Students will no longer need to wear face masks in school, unless they wish to do so.

Students are asked to continue to have a face mask on their person at all times so that we can respond to escalating case rates at short notice if this proves to be necessary.

Hand Sanitiser and Wipes

Parents are asked to provide hand sanitiser and wipes for their son/daughter. Students will have the opportunity to clean their workspace before the start of each lesson.

Social Distancing

This will not be required anywhere on site, for staff or students.

LFD Testing

Parents are also urged to maintain twice weekly LFD testing at home. **In particular, it is important that students do an LFD tested on Sunday 27th February.**

Cleaning Routines

We will maintain enhanced cleaning routines around the school site.

Cleaning equipment will be available in every classroom.

Ventilation

We will keep windows and doors open as much as possible during the day, although the fire doors in the corridors will need to remain shut.

Dining Hall and Holding Areas

The dining hall will remain in full use.

Teaching Rooms

All students can follow their timetabled rooming in the normal fashion.

School Day Timings

School days timings will remain unchanged.

Extracurricular Clubs

Extracurricular clubs for specific year groups can return to normal, including those that involve mixed age groups.

Sports fixtures or other events that include other schools will go ahead provided the group sizes are small and these activities are carefully managed.

Events that involve students from other schools coming into Fallibroome will also be permitted.

Movement Around School

We will keep the internal one-way system in place in all areas of the school, except the Performing Arts Block and the Sixth Form Centre.

We will operate two different approaches to the start of lessons:

Model 1

Students will be asked to line up outside the classroom until their teacher arrives.

Model 2

Students will be allowed to enter the classroom as soon as they arrive at the classroom so that they do not have to queue in the corridor.

Individual teachers will let their groups know which approach they intend to adopt for their classroom.

Behaviour

Normal behaviour expectations will apply in full.

Health Monitoring (Students)

Parents are reminded not to send their child to school if they are displaying Covid-19 symptoms (persistent cough; high temperature; loss of sense of smell/taste).

If a child begins to feel ill with Covid symptoms during the school day, they will be sent to the Pastoral Centre. We have procedures in place to manage students with Covid-19 symptoms separately from other students. Parents will be contacted if their son/daughter is showing Covid-19 symptoms and asked to take them home as soon as possible.

Positive Covid Cases and Close Contacts

Please continue to follow the flow charts issued on 17th January. We have attached these charts to this handbook for your reference.

If changes are introduced to this guidance in the weeks ahead, we will update these charts and re-issue them to all families.

Fire Alarm

In the event of a fire alarm, we will organise our evacuation procedures in the normal fashion.

Toilets (Students)

Students will be allowed to use the toilets in the normal fashion. We will not replace the corridor doors to the toilets so that these areas can be easily monitored by staff.

Students will be discouraged from taking a toilet break during a lesson (unless they have a toilet pass).

Assemblies

Where assemblies are considered to be important, we will allow them to go ahead.

Assemblies involving mixed age groups will be avoided if possible.

Visitors

Individual adult visitors will be allowed to come into school.

We will assess groups of adult visitors on a case-by-case basis.

Open Evenings / Large Events

We will allow large scale evening events to go ahead.

Events that involve large numbers of visitors coming into school during the school day will be avoided where possible. If such events are permitted, additional measures will be put in place to minimise the infection risk to our community.

Online Lessons

We will continue to provide online learning for students who are isolating. Students can log on to these lessons by going to meet.google.com and entering their teacher's staff code.

We will continue to update our central spreadsheet on a daily basis so that our teachers can set up online access for those students who are isolating. However, please bear in mind that if your case is reported to us late in the evening or at the weekend, it may take us a few hours the next morning to update our records and systems accordingly.

Parents are reminded to let us know if your child is isolating for Covid related reasons. This can be done by emailing us at covid@fallibroome.org.uk. If you do not do this, your child's teachers will not know that they need to be given access to online lessons.

Staff Shortages

While this has been a problem for us this term, it has not been as severe as we were expecting. However, we are very conscious that this could change very quickly and that we may need to respond to these sorts of issues at very short notice.

If these problems become severe, we may need to ask a year group to work from home for a period of time so that the teachers in that year group can be redeployed to cover for absent colleagues. While we will do everything possible to avert such a scenario, it may prove to be unavoidable. We will write to parents again if we need to take such action.

Lesson Delivery

Student movement during lessons will return to normal.

Teaching assistants will continue to work with their SEND students on a 1:1 basis in the normal fashion.

Assessment, Marking and The Presentation of Student Work

Staff will be able to collect and mark exercise books in the normal fashion.

Communicating with Parents

Parents will be able to come into school for an appointment

We will continue to deliver all parents' evenings online.

Summary

We will monitor these issues very closely in the months ahead and will respond to any emerging trends as advised by Public Health.