



Ref SRE/dc

04 January 2021

Dear Parent or Carer

### **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Staff and Students**

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. Testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. I would encourage everyone to take the test to keep the whole community safe.

We will be testing all staff and students participating in the testing from the week commencing 4 January 2021. I have enclosed an instructional leaflet with some more information.

**If you are happy for your child to be tested, please click the link below and follow the instructions to give your consent:**

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=422MiYGIYUizqWU-QiHS6ywCe9C0vh1PmVjQDj3ggBVURjNCTVFLVVNBOE1FSkpQTUIZUUMyU0ITWS4u>

### **What if a pupil tests positive?**

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). [School / college] will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, they should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

### **What happens if the test is negative?**

They will be able to stay in [school/college] and resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

Tel: 01702 900777

Email: [info@southchurchschool.com](mailto:info@southchurchschool.com)

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Headteacher: Mr S C Reynolds

### **What if a close contact at school/college tests positive?**

A close contact of someone in school/college who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to [school/college] if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of [school/college] who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

### **What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme at [school/college] is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions by contacting the school on 01702 900777 or email [info@southchurchschool.com](mailto:info@southchurchschool.com).

Yours faithfully



Mr S Reynolds  
Headteacher