

Social Arts for Education
An Independent Special School for Children aged 11-18
Charity number 1150485
DfE Registration number 203/6006

Chair of Proprietorial Body Mr L Riviere
Headteacher Miss R McWeeney
Assistant Heads/Senior Leads Mrs Lisa King, Mr Michael
Hunter

253 Eltham High Street
London
SE9 1TY



31st December 2021

Dear parents and carers

Update to COVID-19 procedures for January start

With COVID rates on the continual rise, we need to ensure that measures within SAFE are stepped up in order to reduce the risk of transmission as far as is possible.

As we are very small, and therefore do not have a vast amount of resources to cover staff absence, or to provide effective mixed online and face to face schooling, if enough staff are simultaneously absent, we may be in a position of having no choice but to put the entire school back on full remote learning in order that every student can receive some form of education. We obviously want to avoid this as far as we possibly can.

With that in mind, could you please help us by doing the following:

- Please could you get your children to test twice weekly, or daily for ten days if they are identified as a close contact of a known case of COVID-19. I will provide a link to a test log form via email. The test results will be held securely and only viewable by me and the other members of the Senior Leadership team.
- Please could you do your best to ensure your children wash daily and wear fresh clothes to school each day - we do understand that many of our students have sensory difficulties that make this hard, but it's an important step in infection control.
- Please limit what your children are bringing in to school
- Please ensure your children wear masks if travelling in on public transport (exemptions excepted)
- Please also continue to inform us if your child is a close contact of a known case of COVID. This will have no bearing on their ability to attend school, but will help us to keep clinically vulnerable people safe. We will not ever divulge personal details of someone who has been a close contact.

“Allowing Children to Learn in a Safe and Understanding Environment”

Website: <http://www.safeschoolbexley.co.uk> Email: info@safeschoolbexley.co.uk Telephone: 020 8850 3286

Registered company address: 253 Eltham High Street, SE9 1TY

Chair of Proprietorial Body, Mr LaReo Riviere

- Please do not bring your children to school until they have had a negative PCR test if they have any of the following symptoms:
 - A raised temperature (common with all variants)
 - A new continuous or persistent cough (all variants but less likely with Omicron)
 - Loss of, or change to, their sense of taste or smell (all variants but less likely to be pronounced with Omicron, and might just be a 'funny feeling' in their mouth)
 - Body aches (unless part of another known condition) and/or other flu-like symptoms such as severe fatigue (common with all variants)
 - Nausea or vomiting (common with all variants, especially in children)
 - Heavy cold symptoms such as runny nose or sneezing, especially if accompanied by a headache and/or raised temperature (common with Omicron)
 - Sore, scratchy throat and hoarse voice (common with Omicron)

It's particularly important to get your child tested if they have more than one of the cold-like symptoms associated with Omicron variant.

Within the school, we will be introducing the following measures:

- The two key stages will, insofar as is practicable, each be assigned an area of the building for each day or part of the day, and will have to remain in these (other than to visit the bathroom). These areas will be marked on the timetable for each day.
- Cleaning will be increased, with extra cleaning being carried out at lunchtimes.
- Unless there's a valid medical reason for children not to go to the park, or an existing exemption or club membership in place, all children will be required to go to the park at lunchtime. This is to allow for safe and effective cleaning at this point, and to allow students to socialise more freely, as transmission risk is reduced outside.. We will also be unlikely to have spare staff to supervise extra children, as we are trying to reduce overall occupancy.
- Certain of the lunchtime clubs will be cancelled, where occupancy has been too high and widespread in the building at these times. This is to allow for safe and effective cleaning at lunchtime. Currently only Anime Club is affected.
- Basic equipment (pen, pencil, ruler, rubber) will be provided in a named pencil case for each child, so that less is being shared between students.
- Any visitors (including parents) will be asked to have their temperature taken, and to fill out a COVID risk questionnaire. The information on this will be kept to a minimum, with initials only being used.
- Masks are to be worn by all visitors, and by students and staff (excluding those who are exempt) when not directly engaged in lessons.
- Children will be asked to stay in their classrooms until collected at lunch and the end of the day, to avoid overcrowding in the reception area.

Could you please run through these with your children so that they know what to expect.

We will also be running an onsite asymptomatic testing centre in the first week back, and I will be requesting your consent for this in the same email I send with the COVID test form. If you could simply reply to that email stating whether you give consent for onsite testing or not, that would be really helpful..

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 Registered company number: 7893397 Registered Charity Number 1150485

Should the worst happen, and the school have to move to remote learning, wherever possible we will do this in stages. GCSE students will have to be prioritised in this instance, given the point we are at in the academic year. We do understand how potentially difficult and disruptive this will be to our other students. We all need to work together to try to keep our school infection free in order that we have sufficient staff available at any time to be able to remain properly open.

I hope that is all clear - as ever, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely



Ruth McWeeney
Headteacher at Social Arts for Education

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