

26th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: Lifting of COVID-19 Restrictions

As you will be aware, the government announced that England will now revert to Plan A, with some measures already lifted and others from Thursday 27 January 2022. Please see below the impact of this on our school.

From Thursday 27 January 2022

The Government's Plan A states that 'The requirement to wear face masks in some public places will no longer be mandatory, and COVID passports will no longer be necessary to attend large events; although the government suggests people continue to wear a mask in crowded and indoor spaces where you may come into contact with people you do not normally meet'.

At Iqra school the requirement for parents and staff to wear a mask in the playground and in classes will cease from 27th January 2022. However, staff may continue to wear masks in communal areas in the school.

We recognise that a very small number of parents, staff and pupils may feel anxious about not wearing a mask, or be clinically extremely vulnerable. In these cases, and subject to a risk assessment and discussions with the headteacher, masks may be continued to be worn.

Face to face meetings will resume and school assemblies will return to normal. All Parent meetings will be able to take place in person, but we do ask that all parents and carers take a lateral flow test (LFT) before visiting the school at any time.

Trips will be continued alongside a thorough risk assessment.

Measures we will continue to implement

Although we are pleased to see many restrictions being lifted, we will still be retaining the enhanced measures we have put in place in our school, such as:

- the additional cleaning regimes
- the provision of hand sanitiser
- encouraging frequent hand-washing
- ensuring classrooms are well ventilated.

We will also continue to carry out regular risk assessments, which will be published on our websites when reviewed. We have contingency plans in place, should we need to step virus control measures up or down, in accordance with government and public health guidance. We will, of course, tell you if this becomes necessary.

The government strongly encourages all staff in education, and students in year 7 and above, to continue regular lateral flow device (LFD) testing twice a week and report their results. It is also recommended that everyone eligible should get vaccinated and boosted. At Iqra primary school we recommend that if your child displays any symptoms of Covid, please do a lateral flow test (LFD) before sending your child to school. Symptoms include:

- Runny nose
- Headache
- Sneezing
- Persistent cough
- Sore throat

The current regulations about self-isolation after a positive test are due to be reviewed on 24 March 2022, although the government has indicated this date could be brought forward, as we move to a long-term strategy for living with the virus. We will write to you again as soon as any changes to self-isolation are announced.

Entry and exit gates at Iqra

We will continue to encourage all parents to drop and pick up their children off at their allocated gates.

The school gates will open at **8:30am** for all our pupils and registration begins at 8:35am. We will continue with our various entry/exit gates for pupils.

- Years 6, 5, & 4 will use the gate from the Willow/Iqra shared car park. Gates will be open from 8:30am until 8:50am and children will go straight to their classrooms.
- Years 1, 2, & 3 will use the main gate. Gates open from 8.30am until 8:55am.
- Reception children will enter/exit from the rear gate through the school hall. This gate will open at 8:30am and close at 8:50am

Children can be collected at the end of the school day through the same gates. The school day for pupils in **Years 1 – 6 is from 8:30am – 3:00pm**. Pupils in **Reception** will finish their day at **2:50pm**. Please collect your younger children first and then exit from your nearest gate after collecting the older siblings. Please **DO NOT** congregate on the school playground.

I'm sure, like me, you will be happy to see a return to some form of normality, albeit with a greater awareness of how quickly infections can spread, and the need to practice good hygiene. I would like to thank you for your patience with all the changes we have had to implement, sometimes very quickly, and your support for everything we have tried to do to keep our students safe.

Your Sincerely,

Dr Mineza Maher
Headteacher