

5 November 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

National Restrictions in England and guidance for schools

Yesterday, the Government published [guidance](#) for schools regarding the national restrictions that begin today. Generally speaking, for us there is little that needs to change from the measures implemented in the previous half-term.

In the guidance, the Government emphasises that the vast majority of children should continue to be in school, as the risk to them of becoming very unwell from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low, even for those with existing health conditions.

Main points from the guidance:

Clinically extremely vulnerable children

The guidance states: “most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. Parents should be advised to speak to their child’s GP or specialist clinician if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.” If this is the case for your child, they are advised not to attend school whilst the national restrictions are in place. Please inform us of this and we will make arrangements to enable your child to continue their education at home. Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend school.

The guidance is similar for staff so we will be requiring some colleagues to work from home during this period.

Face coverings

The requirements nationally reflect those we have been implementing since Northumberland moved to tighter local restrictions several weeks ago, so there will be no change to our recent approach.

Transport

The Government is advising that travel in or out of local areas should be avoided, and parents, carers and staff should look to reduce the number of journeys they make - but travelling to deliver and access education is still permitted. Staff, children and their parents

and carers are encouraged to walk or cycle when travelling to and from school where this is possible, and to plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport.

PE, sport, music, dance and drama

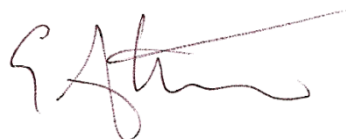
Lessons in these subjects can continue in line with the current guidance – during school time. Schools must only provide team sports listed on the [return to recreational team sport framework](#). Competition between different schools or colleges should not take place during the current period.

After-school clubs and activities

After-school extra-curricular activity is to be paused during the period of restrictions. However, any activities which are focused on education or training, including 1:1 or group tuition, catch-up clubs, revision clubs, can take place so we will be continuing with our after-school study support sessions as per previous communications from Ms Platts. Further clarification is being sought as to whether sports, music, drama, etc. clubs could reasonably be included under the definition of 'training'.

We shall of course keep you updated with any further developments. In the meantime, thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Atkins', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Graeme Atkins
Executive Headteacher