

Dear Parents and carers

On Monday, the Prime Minister gave a [statement](#) in Parliament outlining the next phase of the Government's COVID-19 response. The Prime Minister confirmed domestic legal restrictions will end on **24 February** as the country are asked to begin to treat Covid like other infectious diseases.

The UKHSA [guidance](#) for people with COVID-19 and their contacts has now been published together with the [schools](#) guidance, both of which are clear that positive individuals are currently still required to isolate and makes the following point:

*“Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. They should follow the guidance for their educational setting.”*

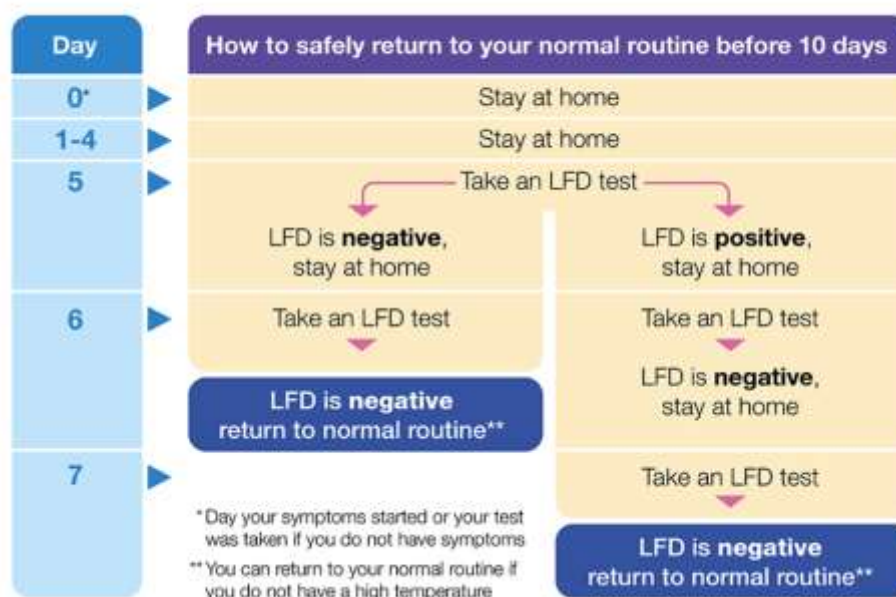
*“Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend the setting as normal.”*

In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with the key symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others as detailed in the guidance:

***If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your school where they have a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, schools can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.***

The flow chart below is from the DFE guidance for people with COVID and their close contacts and highlights the steps to take

#### How to safely return to your normal routine before 10 days



**If your day 5 LFD test result is positive, you can continue taking LFD tests until you receive 2 consecutive negative test results.**

The immediate changes to the guidance reflect how the government are looking to move from a pandemic to an endemic, with a transitional period from now until 1<sup>st</sup> April when there may be further changes to guidance. Over the next few weeks we will reflect this in our guidance to staff and parents and the supporting documentation required (updated operational risk assessments and contingency framework, safe working guidance and support for staff).

Until 1<sup>st</sup> of April, for the continuing safety of all staff and pupils, schools will continue with their current hygiene and cleaning routines, keep occupied spaces well ventilated and follow Public Health advice when someone develops Covid symptoms or has a positive test – **anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and seek a PCR test.**

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Evans', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr Gary Evans

Chief Executive Officer  
The Blue Kite Academy Trust