



Meopham School **Covid-19 FAQs**

Q. My child has symptoms, shall I send them to school?

No, do not send your child to school, they must remain home and government guidelines about isolation should be followed.

Please do inform the school. Email: mss-attendance@swale.at

Q. A member of the family has displayed symptoms can I still send my child to school?

No, keep your child at home and isolate the household. It is really important you do not delay in doing this as there is a risk of infection within the first 48 hours.

Please do inform the school. Email: mss-attendance@swale.at

Q. How did you choose which children were asked to isolate?

We have to follow the close contact rules as set by Public Health England, a link to these are on our website and [here](#). They would not deem walking to school as a close contact.

Q. How do you contact parents?

We will send a general email to the whole school advising that there is a positive case within school. A personalised email will be sent to those parents whose students need to isolate.

Q. What should my child do when isolating?

They should remain at home and access work via Google Classroom.

Q. Do family members have to stay at home

If a student has been asked to self-isolate, family members do not need to isolate unless the student displays symptoms.

Q. How does my child access their work?

Work will be set via Google Classroom. If your child is having difficulty accessing this please contact MSS_classroomhelp@swale.at or go to the relevant section on our website.

Q. A friend of my child is isolating, why has my child not been asked to isolate?

Only those children who are deemed a close contact within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms have been asked to isolate. This is a government policy not our decision. We take each situation on a case by case basis, and carefully ensure we ask the right people to isolate. We would not want to ask students to isolate unnecessarily, but we will always ensure safety is paramount. If we are concerned we would always ask more students to isolate as a precaution in order to keep them and others safe.

Q. Why may I be asked to isolate my child for less than 14 days?

The close contact criteria is applied by PHE. The period of isolation is 14 days from last contact with the person who has received a positive test.

Q. If my child was in a class with a child that tested positive last week, why may they not be asked to isolate?

Someone with a positive test can be deemed as infectious 48 hours before they show symptoms. We will apply close contact guidance and ask those to isolate who were in close contact within that 48 hour window.

Q. What precautions is the school taking to ensure my child is safe?

We have followed a strict set of guidelines to ensure the school follows the COVID protocols of deep and regular cleaning, windows opened, sanitiser in every room and on entrance to the school site, mask wearing and social distancing. Students are zoned to keep them separate, and where possible movement around the building is limited.

Q. Am I allowed to keep my child away from school even though they have not been asked to isolate?

The Trust's position would be to unauthorise the absence whilst we are open. Ongoing absences cannot be authorised and could lead to fines but it is your decision to keep your children out of school.

Q. My child has been told to self isolate but I have had them tested which is negative, can they return to school?

No, all children who have been asked to self isolate must remain off school for the period in the letter as symptoms may show any time within the 14 days. This is a government policy not a school decision.

Q. How can it be safe for pupils to attend if there are cases in school?

We appreciate that this is an anxious time for everybody. We believe we have robust and effective measures for keeping students, staff and parents safe. Nationally the clinicians are reporting that the benefits of children being in school, such as the positive impact on their academic development and mental health, far outweighs the risks. The evidence has emerged that there is a very low risk of children becoming unwell with coronavirus even those that are clinically vulnerable or with existing health conditions.

Q. What if we are a family with a clinically vulnerable person in the household?

Many of our staff and pupils are shielding clinically vulnerable members of the household and are following government protocols to protect them but are not having to isolate themselves. If you have concerns please speak to the student services team

MSS-studentservices@swale.at

Q. How do you maintain social distancing in school?

We remind children regularly of the importance of social distancing. Students are separated into zones before school and during break and lunch. They also have designated stairways to reduce the possibility of cross contamination. Break and lunch times are staggered to keep students apart, whilst still ensuring they have appropriate space and time outside of lessons. Classrooms have been adapted and laid out appropriately, and movement around the school is reduced as much as possible.

Q. How do I inform you my child has a positive test result?

Please email mss-covidemergency@swale.at A member of our leadership team will contact you as soon as practicable.

Q. What should I do if I have questions or am unclear whether me or my child has symptoms?

Contact 111 or the [Gov.Uk](https://www.gov.uk) website. If you are in doubt you should self isolate and book a test as soon as possible.