



3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020



Bevois Town Primary School

Dear Parent, Carer or Guardian,

We hope this letter finds you well in these challenging and unprecedented times.

The extension of the COVID saliva testing programme in the four Aspire Trust Schools has continued after half term and it is pleasing to see that the numbers that submitted in recent weeks have been high and in line with the overall average since the pilot started in the schools. By submitting a sample, students and staff from the four schools are enhancing the existing protection measures and helping the national fight against COVID-19.

We are pleased to let you know that testing will continue in the New Year, with small enhancements in the packaging and the laboratory testing.

Currently, if a student or member of school staff tests positive through the saliva testing programme, the NHS will inform the parent of the child or the member of staff. The relevant school will only find out this information from the parent directly, or from the NHS if the parent gives permission for the NHS to pass on this information.

The testing to date has identified three issues:

- 1) If a student or member of staff tests positive, there are a number of arrangements that families need to make in order to effectively and efficiently self-isolate. We appreciate that amongst these arrangements, informing the school of a positive case is an additional burden and is necessarily a lower immediate priority.
- 2) It is important that schools are notified of a positive case as soon as possible so that they can start the process of contact tracing within the school and adjusting teaching arrangements based on advice from the Department for Education and Public Health England.
- 3) Additionally, as national policy develops, we are evaluating the feasibility of trialling daily testing of students or members of staff instead of self-isolation, where they have been identified as a "contact" of someone who tested positive. If agreed, this pilot would initially take place at Cantell School.

In response to these issues, from the 7th of December, the Headteacher and a nominated member of the school's Senior Leadership Team, in each school involved in the pilot, will be **confidentially** informed by the NHS of a positive case in respect of a student or a member of staff. This will allow the Headteacher and the nominated member of the school's Senior Leadership Team to carry out their duties in line with their risk assessments as quickly as possible, thereby minimising risk of the virus spreading.

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Proud members of the Aspire Community Trust





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The additional public task lawful basis for the NHS processing this data is under Regulations 3(1) and (4) of the Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002 (COPI) which allows the sharing of data for COVID related purposes.

Please find attached the updated Joint Privacy Notice (JPN).

Should you have any questions regarding this change in procedure, please contact the Chair of the Aspire Trust on [headspa@cantell.co.uk](mailto:headspa@cantell.co.uk)

Yours Sincerely,

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