



# St. George's School

## A Church of England Academy

'Our vision is to be outstanding through the provision of consistent academic excellence within a caring, Christian community'

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### NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Pupils

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will be aware, a programme of lateral flow Covid-19 testing has been taking place at St George's School with 2500 tests conducted so far. Following the change in guidance from the Government, this same approach will be applied for home testing for pupils and St George's staff **from 15.03.21**.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further measures to help pupils and staff members to work in as safe an environment as possible. Up to one in three people who have Covid-19 have the virus without symptoms so could be transmitting the virus unknowingly. Tackling the pandemic requires identifying asymptomatic, infectious individuals. By testing, we will help to reduce the spread in schools. I am therefore strongly encouraging all pupils to take the tests.

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. They are clinically approved and are crucial in the fight against the virus. As the tests are more sensitive with higher viral loads, there is a risk of returning a negative result when viral loads are low (e.g. in the early stages of infection). This is why Public Health England recommend two LFD tests 3 to 5 days apart, or regular testing, to enhance detection by picking up any cases which were not detected during the first test and to catch any new infections.

If you test positive using a LFD, it is likely that you are infectious at that moment, whereas people testing positive on a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or lab-processed test could be in the less infectious early or late stages of disease. This means that by using the lateral flow test we can identify people with a high viral load who are the most likely to spread the virus further. A negative LFD result should not be read as a means to relax or ignore social distancing or other virus prevention measures intended to reduce transmission – LFD is an additional tool that contributes to reducing risk.

### Testing Distribution

Pupils who have parental permission will be provided with a test kit every four weeks from week commencing **15.03.21**. The tests will be distributed during family dining on the Monday of that week. If your child is not in on that Monday, we will ensure that your child receives their testing kit that week. **Please do not start at home testing until your child has been offered their third test in school.**

*We are awaiting further guidance from the Government regarding testing over the Easter period.*

**For further information and guidance please visit the St George's testing website –**  
<https://sites.google.com/cidari.co.uk/sgpupiltesting> or use the QR code below

### How the tests work

Pupils should conduct the test between 3-5 days apart. We suggest to limit school absence, pupils should take a test on a Friday afternoon, once they have returned from school and a Tuesday afternoon. If the test is positive on a Friday, it will provide you with time to organise a PCR test. This will help to reduce absence (at least once a week) while you organise the PCR confirmation test. The LFDs supplied do not require laboratory processing and can provide a quick result in around 30 minutes. Comprehensive guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet which comes with the test kit. The testing website contains other useful documents and a useful video to show you how to administer the test.

Following your final in school test, we suggest the following testing regime: -

Year Group	Date of test 3 in school	First date of home testing	Subsequent test days
10	15/03	19/03	Every Tuesday and Friday
7	16/03	19/03	
8	17/03	22/03	
9	18/03	23/03	
11	19/03	23/03	

Once the test has been conducted, you will log the test result for school records and record your result on the Government website. These are accessed through the testing website. Please note to gain access to the site you must log in using the pupil email address and password.

## Consent / Privacy

Once your child understands the testing process and reads the privacy notice, if you choose to participate, you are committing to self-administer the test and provide the results to school for your child. You should also ensure that you provide the results of your child (positive, negative or void) to NHS Test and Trace via the self-report gov.uk page.

Pupils who decline to participate can still attend school if not symptomatic.

Pupils who decline to participate in this testing programme should follow the usual national guidelines on self-isolation and anyone should get tested if they show symptoms.

We will support our pupils throughout but before you contact the school with any questions regarding testing, please look at FAQs within the St George's testing website.

Yours sincerely,

*G Warnock*

Mr G Warnock

Headteacher

You can use this QR code to access our testing website: -

