



3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Welcome Back**

As we approach the start of another year at Swanwick School & Sports College (SSSC) we would like to take this opportunity to let you know how the school will function in the new normal.

COVID is still with us but with the success of the vaccination programme we are now free to experience far more freedom compared to the eighteen months since March 2021.

In school this will mean that our pupils will have the opportunity to access the full SSSC experience. In the secondary provision this might include moving from classroom to classroom, teacher to teacher, streamed Maths and English lessons, Inter-house competitions and more educational visits.

However, we must still try to minimise the risk from COVID as much as we possibly can. For example we will continue to make the use of hand sanitiser and hand hygiene a routine part of the day. Pupils and staff will be encouraged to social distance wherever possible. Masks may be worn by any member of the school community, especially in crowded areas, but at this time they are not compulsory.

If a child decides to wear a mask we do ask that it is a proper mask rather than a face covering. School will provide masks as required. Masks will continue to be required when using the minibuses.

### **Pupil Testing**

The Government is keen to ensure that as many secondary aged pupils as possible are tested on a regular basis. Staff are testing twice weekly and if willing and able pupils are also testing it will reduce the risk of COVID within the school dramatically.

In order to meet this requirement we are offering each secondary aged child a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test when they arrive on their first day in school. A second test will be offered later in the week and then home testing kits will be provided with the intention that the pupils test twice a week.

Headteachers: C Greenhough & D England



If a child experiences a positive test they will of course have to take a PCR test and self-isolate for the required time period. Close contacts of any pupil or member of staff will be asked to organise a PCR test but they will not need to self-isolate whilst waiting for the result.

**Please find attached the consent form that needs to be completed before any testing can take place. We have also updated our Privacy Notice that can be found on the school website. The notice explains how we will use the data you provide for NHS Test and Trace.**

Please be assured that we will not arrange any testing until parents and carers return completed consent forms. If you decide not to return the form you can be confident that your child will not be asked to take a test in school. You can also be confident that this will not affect your child being able to attend school.

To summarise, if you feel your child will be able to administer the test themselves, you are happy for two school based tests to take place, and you are happy for the school to use the consent form data to inform Test and Trace, then please complete and return the attached consent form.

If you do not want your child to take part in testing you do not have to do anything further.

### **Attendance**

During the pandemic pupil attendance has been massively affected. At SSSC we have given our pupils every opportunity to attend school as regularly as possible. However we have also worked with parents and carers on an individual basis where alternative arrangements have been required.

The Government has now made it very clear that full attendance is expected of all pupils as soon as the new term starts and attendance monitoring will resume. We agree that full attendance is vitally important for our pupils so if you do have any concerns please contact the school.

Yours sincerely

C Greenhough & D England

# Consent form for COVID-19 testing in secondary schools and colleges

## Introduction

- This consent form is for participation in tests at an ATS designed to detect asymptomatic coronavirus cases. Anyone experiencing symptoms should follow [government guidelines to self-isolate](#), even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test.
- Consent relates to the following groups of students/pupils and staff as follows:
  - **For pupils and students younger than 16 years** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.
  - **Pupils and students over 16 who are able to provide informed consent** - can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.
  - **For any pupil or student who does not have the capacity to provide informed consent** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.

## Terms of consent

- 1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school/college about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in the letter dated 03/09/2021 and the attached Privacy Notice.
- 2. In the case of under 16s, I have discussed the testing with my child and my child is happy to participate. If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so and consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
- 3. I consent to having / my child having a nose and/or throat swab for lateral flow tests. I / my child will self-swab if I / my child is able to otherwise I understand that assistance is available.
- 4. I understand that there may be multiple tests required and this consent covers all tests for the below named person. If, on the day of testing I / they do not wish to take part, then I understand I / they will not be made to do so and that consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
- 5. I consent that my / my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
- 6. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I commit to ensuring that I / my child is removed from school/college premises as promptly as possible, bearing in mind I / they may have some anxiety following a positive test result.
- 7. I agree that if my / my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this lateral flow test I understand that I / my child will be required to self-isolate and [book a](#)

[confirmatory PCR](#) test following public health advice.

• <b>First Name</b>	
• <b>Last Name</b>	
• <b>Year group (if applicable)</b>	
• <b>Date of Birth</b>	
• <b>Gender</b> – this information is needed for Department for Health and Social Care research purposes.	• Male/Female
• <b>Ethnicity</b> - this information is needed for Department for Health and Social Care research purposes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Asian or Asian British</li><li>• Black, African, Black British or Caribbean</li><li>• Mixed or multiple ethnic groups</li><li>• White</li><li>• Prefer not to say</li></ul>
• <b>Currently showing any COVID-19 symptoms?</b>	
• <b>Home Postcode</b>	
• <b>Email Address</b> – this is where test results will be sent.	
• <b>Mobile Number</b> – this is where test results will be sent. Please do not put a landline number – you can only receive test results to a mobile number.	
• <b>Name of parent/guardian giving consent</b>	
• <b>Relationship to test subject</b>	
• <b>Signature</b> (typing out your name is sufficient if you are filling in this form digitally)	
• <b>Today's date</b>	
• Details of any health or accessibility issues which might affect a child's safe participation in the testing exercise.	