

12 January 2021



SouthwarkInclusive
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Dear Parent or guardian,

In School COVID-19 testing for staff and students

You may have heard that testing for people without coronavirus symptoms is taking place across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

As directed by the government, **this letter is to inform you that arrangements are being made for 'lateral flow tests' to take place in school (at SILS) for staff and students who want to participate from Monday 18 January 2021.**

Along with the other protective measures, these tests will help staff and students remain in school safely and by testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible.

The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it. I enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information.

The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of the nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process. Results which take around half an hour from testing will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating, and parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually, and parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). The school will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test.

During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.



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What happens if the test is negative?

Staff or students will be able to stay in school and resume the day's activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact at school tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

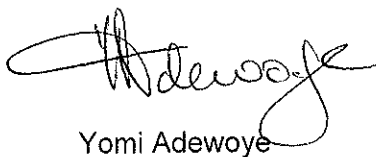
Parents' consent

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the form below and the enclosed consent statement and return it to the school office via email or through your child.

Finally, do note that our school website www.silsschools.org has additional information on arrangements that have been to keep your child safe and the privacy notice on how any data collected will be securely kept.

We will continue to support your child and our staff throughout this period, but do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,



Yomi Adewoye

Headteacher

Consent form for COVID-19 testing at SILS – parents to sign and return

Children under 16 need parental consent before the school can carry out a COVID-19 test. This form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian.

This testing is offered to every child in school. We are testing to help identify children who are positive with COVID-19 but do not show any symptoms (this is known as asymptomatic).

If you have more than one child at school, you will need to complete more than one form. This is because each child needs their own consent form.

Terms of consent

- I have considered the information provided by SILS and gone through the COVID-19 'how to do your test' leaflet and understand what will happen to my child during testing.
- 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 take the test.
- You are able to change your mind at any time. Please telephone 0207 5251150 if you decide you no longer want your child to be tested.
- I consent to my child having a nose and throat swab (this is for a lateral flow test); and note that my child will self-swab for the test.
- I consent that my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
- I understand that if my child's results are negative on the lateral flow test, I will not be contacted by the school except where they are a close contact of a confirmed positive.
- If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I consent to my child having another nose and throat swab. This will be used for PCR testing to confirm the result. This PCR test will be sent the same day to an NHS Test & Trace laboratory.
- I consent that my child will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test result, until the results of the confirmatory PCR have been received.
- I agree that if my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this PCR test, I will report this to the school. If the PCR test is positive, I understand that my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.
- I consent that if a close contact of my child tests positive but my child has tested negative, my child will continue to attend school but will be tested every day at school for 7 days.

Name of pupil to be tested (print)	
Year group	
Name of parent or guardian (print)	
Signature	
Date	
Relationship to child	

HOW TO DO YOUR TEST

WHILE THIS IS A SELF-SWAB TEST, THERE WILL BE A TESTING HELPER WHO WILL OVERSEE THINGS AND PROVIDE HELP IF YOU NEED

1 YOUR COVID-19 TEST WILL BE SCHEDULED. IF YOU ARE UNDER 16, YOUR PARENT / CARER WILL HAVE CONSENTED

2 YOUR TEST WILL BE FAST AND WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, IT WON'T HURT YOU

3 BLOW YOUR NOSE IF NEEDED. WASH AND DRY/SANITISE YOUR HANDS. REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE SOFT PART

4 OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND USE A MIRROR TO LOOK AT THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT, THEN USE THE SWAB TO RUB FIRMLY 4 TIMES ON EACH SIDE

10 SECS

5 REMOVE THE SWAB CAREFULLY WITHOUT TOUCHING YOUR TEETH, TONGUE OR GUMS

6 GENTLY PLACE IT ABOUT 2-2.5 CM INSIDE ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS. ROLL THE SWAB 4-5 TIMES ALONG THE LINING OF THE NOSTRIL. THIS WILL TAKE 10-15 SECONDS

7 AFTER THIS, YOU'RE DONE, GENTLY REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANYTHING TOUCH THE TIP

8 YOUR SWAB CAN THEN BE PLACED IN A TUBE FOR TESTING, THIS TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES

9 YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE WILL CONTACT YOU OR YOUR PARENT / CARER WITH THE RESULTS AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT