



## **Lateral Flow COVID 19 Testing in Breda Academy**

### **PUPIL CONSENT**

23 March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

You will be aware that a COVID 19 testing programme in schools is being led by the Department for Health and Social Care, the NI Department of Health, and the NI Department of Education to provide asymptomatic testing in schools and other education settings for staff and senior pupils (Years 12-14). The purpose of this Lateral Flow Testing programme is to detect people who are COVID positive, but do not have symptoms and who may still be spreading the virus. You can see more information on how this testing works by visiting the following link

<https://sway.office.com/whz8dJ46JpeKLclV?ref=Link>-. Attached are some frequently asked questions which you may also find useful.

This letter explains the reasons why and how Breda Academy will record your consent to participate in the Northern Ireland Schools Lateral Flow COVID 19 Testing programme. This involves processing personal data under data protection laws. The school's Data Privacy Notice can be found on the school website.

[https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/423/downloads/Privacy\\_Notice\\_Parents\\_and\\_Pupils\\_May\\_2018.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/423/downloads/Privacy_Notice_Parents_and_Pupils_May_2018.pdf)



To enable us to comply with our obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation, we are required to obtain express consent for the use of your child's personal information for participation in the Northern Ireland Schools Lateral Flow COVID 19 Testing programme. Without your consent we will not include your son/daughter in this programme and will not issue them with Lateral Flow Testing kits.

**Taking part in testing is voluntary.** There is no expectation or obligation to participate. Nobody will be required to undergo testing without consent, and nobody will be excluded from school if they do not wish to test. **A pupil aged 16 or above and who is considered capable of giving their own consent** can complete the form on their own behalf, but should discuss this with a parent. This consent form is valid for the period March 2021 to the end of June 2021.

Consent will also be refreshed where any changes to circumstances occur – this can include, but is not limited to, the following:

- New requirements for consent e.g., a change to the testing approach.
- Changes to school circumstances, e.g. You or your child change schools.
- The programme is extended beyond June 2021.

Please click on the link below to provide your consent as appropriate.

<https://forms.office.com/r/5RtfLQFKE4>

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Perry', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke underneath.

Mr P Perry  
Principal

## FAQs

### **What is a COVID 19 lateral flow test?**

Lateral flow tests are used to identify people who may have no symptoms of COVID 19 but are infectious. If you do have symptoms you should book a PCR test instead <https://covid-19.hscni.net/testing/>. The test gathers a sample from the individuals nose and throat, which is then analysed quickly to determine whether or not they are infectious. The process (administering the test and receiving the result) is completed within 30 minutes and can help in reducing the transmission of COVID 19. Pupils participating in the programme should record all of their test results at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result) or by calling 119.

### **Does my child have to participate in the COVID 19 lateral flow testing programme?**

No, the scheme is voluntary. Testing in post-primary schools is important because staff, and pupils, without symptoms, could be carrying the COVID 19 virus and may spread it to others. Testing staff and students (Years 12-14) without symptoms will support the school to operate as safely as possible, alongside other well-established mitigations to stop the spread of COVID 19.

### **Will my child be required to do a test in school?**

No. If your child has consented to participate in the programme, they will be given a test kit, containing 7 individual tests, which they will **use at home**. School will show pupils how to use the test and familiarise them with the procedure. There is also an easy-to-follow instructional video via the following link and an instruction booklet in the test kit.

<https://sway.office.com/whz8dJ46JpeKLclV?ref=Link>

### **How often will my child have to take a COVID 19 lateral flow test?**

Pupils participating in the scheme are asked to take two tests a week, once on a Sunday evening and again on Wednesday evening. One kit contains 7 tests, which covers approximately 3 ½ weeks of testing. After this, pupils will receive a new set of tests.

### **Is taking the test sore?**

It may be slightly uncomfortable but not sore. Pupils will be shown how to use the test in school. There is also very detailed booklet in the test kit and an instructional video can be accessed in the link above. It is important to follow the instructions carefully as the effectiveness of the test can be compromised if not done properly.

### **What happens if my child's COVID 19 lateral flow test is positive?**

If your child's lateral flow test is positive, they and the rest of the household, should self-isolate until your child gets a PRC (polymerase chain reaction) test to confirm if they are COVID positive. (The lateral flow test does not confirm a positive case of COVID 19). A PRC test can be booked at <https://covid-19.hscni.net/testing/>. If a PCR Test finds a positive COVID presence, they will then be required to self-isolate with their whole household for ten days. If a PCR Test is negative your child can return to school. You must also inform the school of the positive lateral flow test result and

subsequent PRC test. Pupils should also self-report their positive test result via the following link <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> or by calling 119.

**If my child's lateral flow test is negative will they still be required to wear a face mask and socially distance?**

Yes, the test does not replace any other mitigations inside or outside school. A negative lateral flow test will not prevent a pupil being identified as a close contact.

**What do I do if my child has COVID 19 symptoms?**

If your child has COVID 19 symptoms they must get a test and follow PHA advice. School should also be informed. The lateral flow test is an asymptomatic test and not for use if your child is displaying COVID 19 symptoms.

**How do I dispose of the test kit after each test?**

There are 7 small plastic bags in each test kit used to bag the items required to conduct the test. When finished these can be put in your normal domestic waste.