



Pandemic Flu Policy

Leighton Park School endeavors to implement the highest standards in terms of Health and Safety for all its pupils and staff. This policy has been developed with regard to advice and guidance issued by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Health Protection Agency (HPA), and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). In any implementation of the policy the school will act on up to date guidance from the WHO, HPA, DCSF and the local health authority.

- Leighton Park School recognises its responsibilities in dealing with a possible outbreak of pandemic flu
- Leighton Park School will endeavour to protect pupils and members of staff
- Leighton Park School understands the importance of ensuring that pupils and staff feel safe
- Leighton Park School will work in partnership with all relevant agencies to ensure that best practice is followed in preparing for and dealing with any outbreak of pandemic flu

Preventative Measures

Pupils and staff are regularly reminded of measures they can take to minimise the risk of infection eg hand-washing, use of tissues etc. Tissues are widely available for pupils and staff. These should be thrown away after use and people instructed to wash their hands regularly. Hand sanitisers are widely available. Matrons have been trained in hygienic care routines for dealing with suspected cases in pupils.

Increased infection control measures have been introduced into the school's regular cleaning operations and these will continue to be reviewed and updated as required.

If a case of pandemic flu is suspected

Any pupil or member of staff who displays the symptoms of pandemic flu – raised temperature (above 38c), plus any two of the following symptoms:

- unusual tiredness
- headache
- runny nose
- sore throat
- shortness of breath or cough
- loss of appetite
- aching muscles
- diarrhoea or vomiting

should not come to school and should seek medical advice. Boarders developing such symptoms will be isolated in the medical centre whilst medical advice is sought. If pandemic flu is diagnosed, the pupil or member of staff should remain away from school until symptoms have completely cleared up – in case of doubt medical advice should be sought and parents and staff are welcome to contact the practice nurses to discuss the appropriateness of a return to school.

In the event of an outbreak:

Unless otherwise instructed the school will remain open during a pandemic. Any staff or pupils with flu symptoms must stay at home (boarders affected will be sent to guardians or isolated in the health centre until appropriate guardianship arrangements can be made).

Any suspected cases in school will be isolated immediately in the health centre and medical staff will wear protective clothing as recommended by the health authorities. We will notify our school medical officers of any suspected case and take their advice and direction accordingly.

Currently the advice is that those not displaying symptoms should continue to come to school. If there are concerns about individuals with underlying health conditions who may have come in to contact with an individual who is then diagnosed with pandemic flu, medical advice should be sought.

Depending on the scale of staff absence in any outbreak there may be a need to implement timetable changes and set changes in order to maintain continuity of teaching wherever possible. We will abide by any instructions from Examination Boards regarding any impact on public examinations.

Depending on the scale of staff absence in any outbreak there may also be a need to implement changes to boarding arrangements in order to maintain appropriate levels of care and supervision.

The school web-site and VLE will be updated as required to provide information for parents and pupils on useful web-sites for home learning where this may be required.

If the school has to close

Should the school needs to close due to an outbreak of pandemic flu, parents will be informed as soon as possible and parents or guardians will be expected to collect boarders from school.

The school would remain open for staff to set and mark work. Staff will use the school's VLE or e-mail communication from school where possible to communicate with pupils when they are away from school. Parents are advised to ensure that the school has an up to date e-mail address for this purpose.

Any closure would be for the shortest time possible and provision for pupils preparing for external examinations would be the priority if a phased re-opening were required.

Revised
6th May 2010