



DEAN GIBSON CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Dear parents and carers

New self-isolation guidance for schools

The following advice has recently been circulated to schools in Cumbria by our Assistant Director for Education. It is a change from previous guidance and represents an attempt to slow down the rapid rise in Covid cases in Cumbrian schools:

Managing COVID-19 cases is becoming increasingly challenging for educational settings in Cumbria, so Cumbria's Director of Public Health, Colin Cox and education leaders have agreed the following local additional advice measures to be implemented from Thursday 23rd September:

Children and young people aged between the ages of 5 and 16, should now be advised to stay at home when a sibling tests positive for COVID-19 (via either a PCR or Lateral Flow test).

3-5 days following the onset of symptoms in the sibling who has tested positive (or test date if the positive case had no symptoms), the close contact child should get a PCR test. If this is negative, they can return to the setting, but should isolate again immediately and get another test if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 at a later date.

The groups exempt from this advice and able to continue to attend the setting when identified as a close contact of a sibling positive case are:

- 12-18 year-olds who have had at least one dose of the vaccine more than 14 days ago
- Any child aged between 5 – 16 who has tested positive for COVID-19 themselves via a PCR test within the past 90 days.

We hope that this change to advice will help us all keep safe.

Mrs S Tansey

Executive Headteacher

