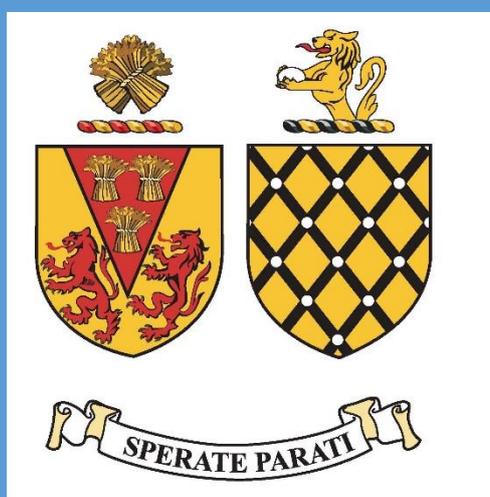


PUPIL GUIDE: MANAGING COVID AT WGGGS FROM 19TH APRIL 2022



Miss Tai

WATFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

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1. Introduction

The Government guidance has removed most restrictions within school and we can now ‘live’ with COVID). We are determined to minimise the disruption caused by the COVID pandemic and so will do what we can to prevent the spread of the virus in school. Everyone has a responsibility to play their part. Please read and keep this guide.

On Tuesday 29 March, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, [set out the next steps for living with COVID-19 in](#) England from Friday 1 April. Most of the COVID-19 specific guidance for education and childcare settings will now be withdrawn from GOV.UK. The school is required to comply with health and safety law, to assess risks and put proportionate control measures in place to mitigate them. The main principles are that we will continue to:

- Prioritise education – maximise the number of pupils in face to face education, and minimise any disruption, in a way that best manages COVID – 19 risk.
- Contingency planning – or outbreak management plans will be put in place in the event of thresholds being reached.

The Leadership Team has updated the risk assessment that is published on the school website. This is a working document and will be reviewed if and when national guidance changes. Based on this risk assessment the following control measures have been put in place.

2. Prevention: Action for you to take

It is the responsibility of the whole school community to prevent the spread of the virus. You should not come to school if you have one or more [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#). You may return to school when you no longer have symptoms, especially a high temperature.

3. Prevention: Enhanced cleaning practices

The best way to keep yourself and others safe it to:

1. Wash your hands more often than usual, especially when you arrive in school, return from breaks, before and after eating. This should be done for 20 seconds with soap and water or using sanitiser.
2. If you sneeze use a disposable tissue to catch it, bin it and then wash your hands.

3. Cough into the crook of your elbow.
4. We have placed sanitiser stations throughout the school but you should help by **carrying your own supply of hand sanitiser and tissues when you are in school.**

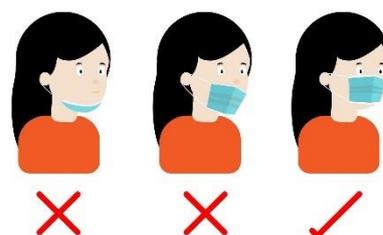
We have employed 2 more members of the cleaning team who have been trained in the enhanced cleaning regime and this will take place throughout the day.

4. Prevention: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) / Face Coverings

All staff and students are **not** required to wear a face covering that covers their mouth and nose to provide an additional layer of protection. **Students may be required to wear a face covering if they are in close contact with members of staff who have been identified as at risk, as a result of a risk assessment. Staff will inform affected students if this is the case and face coverings can be provided.**

If a member of staff or student chooses to wear a face covering must be:

- Worn correctly the entire time on site (see diagram).
- It must be removed if instructed by a member of staff.
- It must be plain (for pupils), replaced every 4 hours and taken home for disposal or replacement.
- Face visors or shields should not be worn as an alternative to face coverings.



5. Prevention: COVID protocols in the classroom

To reduce the spread of the virus windows and doors may be opened to maintain air flow. A balance will be kept between maintaining good ventilation and a working temperature in the classrooms.

6. Response: Positive COVID test

If you become unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or have a loss of, or change in your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia) **you must inform the school immediately** either

Year 7 – 11 absence@watfordgirls.herts.sch.uk

Year 12 + 13 sixthformabsence@watfordgirls.herts.sch.uk

You must stay home or will be sent home until you no longer have symptoms, especially a high temperature. If you have had a positive COVID test you must self-isolate for at least 3 days before returning to school.

7. Expectations during self-isolation

While you are infectious there is a high risk of passing on COVID-19 to others in your household. These are simple things you can do to help prevent the spread:

- keep your distance from other people you live with and spend as little time as possible in shared areas such as kitchens and living rooms. This is particularly important if someone you live with is unvaccinated or at higher risk of becoming seriously unwell from COVID-19, especially those with a severely weakened immune system
- if you need to spend time in shared areas wear a well-fitting face covering made with multiple layers or a surgical face mask. Ventilate the room by opening windows and leaving them open

for at least 10 minutes after you have left the room. Leave extractor fans running for longer than usual with the door closed after use

- cover your mouth and nose with disposable tissues when you cough or sneeze. Dispose of tissues into a rubbish bag and immediately wash your hands or use hand sanitiser
- wash your hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser after coughing, sneezing and blowing your nose and before you eat or handle food. Avoid touching your face
- if you can, use a separate bathroom from the rest of the household. If this is not possible try and use the bathroom after everyone else
- regularly clean frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles and remote controls, and shared areas such as kitchens and bathrooms

8. Remote Learning

If you are absent from with COVID symptoms school we will provide good quality remote learning. Within 24 hours of reporting the absence work will be placed on Teams by teaching staff. Students in Year 11 and 13 will have access to live streamed lessons, but the absence must be reported to the absence line with a clear indication they have COVID symptoms and are well enough to work from home.

9. Outbreak Management Plan

The Government requires all schools to have a contingency plan in the event of an outbreak of positive cases. An outbreak will be:

- a higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of staff or student absences due to COVID-19 infection
- evidence of severe disease due to COVID-19, for example if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital due to COVID-19
- a cluster of cases where there are concerns about the health needs of vulnerable staff or students within the affected group
- If this threshold is met, the school will collaborate with local and national agencies to manage the response. Strategies may include one or more of the following:
 - Reviewing, adapting and enhancing current cleaning regimes
 - Requiring face coverings to be worn by more groups and in all areas of the school.
 - Daily Lateral Flow Tests
 - Restricting large group gatherings i.e. assemblies delivered remotely.
 - Some form of zoning