

Dear Parent,

Testing for those without symptoms of Covid-19, by Lateral Flow Device

We're working with our communities to protect their health and wellbeing and you may have heard that Lancashire is taking part in the national Community Mass Testing programme. The aim of this is to provide a test within the school, for children and staff who, whilst not displaying any of the main coronavirus symptoms, may actually be positive. This will help us to manage the spread of COVID-19 and keep our school community as safe as possible.

We have arranged for testing to take place for all pupils and staff at Blessed Trinity R C College on 17 & 18th December 2020. If you wish your child to be tested, It is really important that you complete and return the consent form to school by **Wednesday 16th December at 1.00pm**. Without this consent form, they will not be able to take part. To complete the consent form, please click on the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=xfsmUvH8MU6AWufP-sj0Kqvu0Jdn485Gvf8E4KsMZ45UNzgzR08zVE9SWjA5QUJGR0hXOUNSUK5JRi4u>

Lateral Flow tests are being used by the government to test people who show no symptoms of COVID-19. These tests provide results a lot quicker and if anyone tests positive, it helps us to control the spread of the virus.

The test will be administered by a trained team who will take a swab of the throat and nose. The tests are suitable for anybody aged 5 and over. Children over 11yrs can undertake these themselves. It can be uncomfortable, but it does not hurt, and only takes seconds.

Those that are tested, including your child if you consent, will find out their result quickly. We are then able to provide a rapid result whilst we are at the school, without needing to send the tests to a laboratory. For this reason, if your child tests positive, you will be asked to come and collect your child and your whole household would then need to isolate.

We will also ask you then to take a second confirmatory test for the child that has tested positive, to confirm the result. This is because some people who test positive in the lateral flow tests could be 'false positive' and this additional test will confirm the result. In order to avoid unnecessary delay and inconvenience, we have arranged for a mobile testing unit to be at the school for this purpose.

If the second result is also positive the national NHS Test and Trace system will advise you how long your household needs to isolate for. You will also receive a code which will enable you to access help towards financial support. Information will be provided on local support available through local community hubs.

If the person tested tests negative it means that no coronavirus was found and s/he can continue their day as normal. They were not infectious at the time the test was carried out.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact the school. In the meantime please also remember all the public health advice given. Wash your hands regularly; use a face covering when shopping or using indoor services; stay at least 2 metres apart from others.

If you develop symptoms of coronavirus, you will need to book a new test via nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119.