

Workers of London Union
Rev Dr Warren Leigh

By email only:
education@workersofengland.co.uk

Please reply to: Peter Nathan
Director of Education
E-mail: Peter.nathan@enfield.gov.uk
Phone: 020 8379 5492
My Ref:
Your Ref:
Date: 15 June 2021

Dear Rev Dr Warren Leigh

We are in receipt of your letter of 10 June 2021 which has been forwarded to a number of schools within our Borough, including Broomfield School, St Anne's Catholic Girls School Bishop Stopford's C of E School and Waverley School. Given the general nature of your letter we anticipate you have also forwarded this letter to other schools within our Borough. Accordingly, we respond in general on behalf of the named schools and generally all schools within our Borough.

Please note that all schools within the remit of this local education authority have been advised and are aware that any medical interventions require consent and as such there is no mandatory obligation placed on staff or schools and they are thus complying with government guidance concerning the use of face coverings, lateral flow and PCR testing and/or vaccinations in the school environment; accordingly, children and staff alike are being encouraged to use these but not mandated to do so in line with government guidance on the basis of the wider public health implications which have arisen concerning COVID-19 pandemic.

Further, please note presently it has not been confirmed that schools will be vaccinating against COVID-19 notwithstanding the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for 12-15 year olds earlier this month. However, as with any vaccination in this country informed consent is required and both the borough and schools will follow the usual procedures for informed consent to any such vaccination programme if and when it arises.

In response to your specific questions, we respond as follows:

1. We are aware risk assessments are required given the current COVID-19 pandemic and our schools have these in place which are tailored to each specific school environment or child (if required for the latter) situation. School risk assessments are ordinarily available on their respective websites and are held by the respective schools individually; any requests for these should be made directly to the relevant school. We are not in a position to provide individual copies as these are likely to contain personal data concerning staff

Tony Theodoulou
Executive Director People
Enfield Council
Civic Centre, Silver Street
Enfield EN1 3XY

www.enfield.gov.uk

and students of the school and be held by the school. We do not hold any consent to release any such information concerning any individual risk assessments and interested parents of a relevant school wishing to obtain a copy of any relevant individual risk assessment are requested to approach their relevant school and make the request directly; in such circumstances the risk assessment would ordinarily have been conducted with regard to the individual child and parent/carer and they would have been provided with a copy of the same.

2. Personal public liability and health insurance policy: each school ordinarily holds its own insurance cover and the interested parent will need to approach their respective school directly to request a copy.
3. As set out above, the London Borough of Enfield and by extension its schools do not advocate any mandatory medical intervention but rather in line with government guidance have sought to encourage its staff and students to wear face coverings and carry out testing on the basis of the wider public health implications which have arisen concerning COVID-19 pandemic. As you will be aware the guidance on wearing face coverings in schools changed on 17 May 2021 and our schools responded to this change and these are on the whole no longer required to be worn in the school environment in line with the phased easing of measures. There has been no breach to any human rights law or other laws and the London Borough of Enfield and its schools have acted within the bounds of it and continue to do so relying upon government guidance as necessary to ensure a fair and balanced approach is taken during these challenging times.
4. The London Borough of Enfield and its schools do not employ specific medically qualified personnel to be present on school premises in the main; there is no longer a provision for school nurses on school sites but that there be qualified first aid staff present.

With regard to any vaccination programme the school would not administer the same but rather facilitate the administration of the same and informed consent of each individual would be required prior to any vaccination.

5. See 2 above.
6. See 2 above.
7. As outlined above, it is evident that the interventions instigated by the London Borough of Enfield and its schools following government guidance have been and remain voluntary. On any issue of vaccination and our schools being

required to facilitate any vaccination programme this will be in accordance with the usual requirement for informed consent.

8. The London Borough of Enfield and its schools do not advocate any form of discrimination and this applied equally to any refusals to consent to any of the voluntary interventions concerning the wearing of face coverings and testing concerning the COVID-19 virus.

We trust this clarifies the position for your concerned parents.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "P. Nathan". Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Peter Nathan
Director of Education

IMPORTANT – Enfield residents should register for an online Enfield Connected account. Enfield Connected puts many Council services in one place, speeds up your payments and saves you time – to set up your account today go to www.enfield.gov.uk/connected