

COVID-19 INFORMATION



Ackworth School

At Ackworth, our priority always has been – and always will be - the safety of our pupils, their families and our staff. This is especially true now as the world continues to grapple with finding a ‘new normal’ in the pandemic.

In our ongoing efforts to remain safe for both pupils and staff, Ackworth School has joined the Boarding Schools Association (BSA) COVID-SAFE Charter. The Charter ensures that the School is not only strictly adhering to government guidelines, but also meeting a number of BSA requirements; taking into consideration both day students, boarders and summer school pupils. A high priority of the School has always been the safety of pupils, staff and families – this has become particularly relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic. The global situation is evolving, and the phased reopening of schools is an emergent process. With this in mind, Ackworth School will continue to take a proactive rather than reactive stance wherever possible, looking to tackle potential issues before they arise. The School has a robust, thorough and saleable COVID-19 strategy, reinforced with the BSA safety charter.



Wellbeing

The wellbeing of pupils is of paramount importance to Ackworth School and staff are more than alert to the risks associated with social isolation. Ackworth School puts pupil wellbeing at the heart of everything it does and has long had a range of strategies to help pupils negotiate the pressures of attending a Summer School in such unprecedented times.

The School's boarding houses have thorough cleaning programmes in place and pupils will be required to keep their personal spaces tidy and free of unnecessary clutter; our outstanding pastoral staff will ensure that this does not allow houses to feel sterile or unwelcoming. We will continue to make use of the excellent outside space for socialising, activities and occasional mealtimes.

Cleaning & Personal Hygiene

Additional hand sanitisers have already been placed around School and provided to teachers for use in classrooms, along with brand new automatic hand washing stations. Pupils will be encouraged to wash hands or use hand sanitiser regularly, and especially before and after meals to prevent transmission. Disposable tissues will be available in each classroom to catch coughs and sneezes. An enhanced cleaning and sanitisation regime means that additional cleaning of surfaces and common areas, including toilets, will take place throughout the day.

Medical Provision & Testing

Ackworth School is extremely well positioned to reassure its pupils and families of their safety with an onsite medical provision. This provision will continue to keep the School's staff fully informed of changing practices and expectations as well as providing 24-hour cover. The School has the ability to take temperatures at any time, should the need arise. Anyone displaying any symptoms of Covid-19, no matter how small, will be immediately isolated pending test results. We have trained staff that are able to carry out these tests in school and can have results back as quickly as possible to avoid unnecessary disruption to the programme and the community. Staff will regularly complete declarations of health. Should a pupil become unwell, the School's protocols of swift response and escalation, where necessary, will be enforced.

Any pupil or adult must not enter the School under any circumstances if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus or suspect that they may have contracted COVID-19.

Staff and pupils showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be eligible for testing. Any pupil displaying symptoms of COVID-19 while on the School site will be isolated in the School's Covid-19 Isolation Unit and their parents will be contacted. Pupils may only return to School following a negative test. Rooms used for isolating suspected COVID-19 cases will undergo thorough cleaning and sanitisation.

