



# St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

## Parents FAQs - testing

**Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests** - this test would be utilised if a person has symptoms for Covid or has tested positive from a LFD test. PCR tests are the most reliable COVID-19 tests. It can take a few days to get the results because they are usually processed in a laboratory.

**Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests** - these are the tests that parents and secondary school pupils are asked to undertake twice weekly. The school provides the tests for pupils. Parents can attend a test site or collect tests from a designated location in Medway. Further details can be found [here](#).

- They are only used if a person does not have any symptoms
- A positive LFD test must be followed up with a confirmatory PCR test.
- LFD tests detect proteins in the coronavirus and work in a similar way to a pregnancy test. They are simple and quick to use.

**If your child is in primary school and does not have any symptoms, should they have a LFD test?** - No, primary school children should not have a LFD test. All parents, secondary school children and school staff should be tested twice weekly using a LFD test.

**If your child has Covid symptoms such as a cough, should you undertake the LFD test to check if they have Covid?** - No, they will need a PCR test and isolate while waiting for the result. LFD tests are used in people who don't have symptoms. If the result of the PCR test is negative, they can return to school if they are well. If it is positive, they should isolate for 10 days from when they first become symptomatic. All household contacts and close contacts will also need to isolate.

**If your child has a negative LFD test result and has Covid symptoms is it ok to send them into school?** - No, they should isolate at home and arrange to have a PCR test. If the result of the PCR test is negative they can return to school if they are well. If it is positive, they should isolate for 10 days from when they first become symptomatic. All household contacts and close contacts will also need to isolate.

**How do I book a PCR test?** - There is a testing site in Medway or a home test can be ordered. You can find further information [here](#) about the process of booking a test or alternatively can call 119.