



Unit 20,  
St Austell Business Park,  
St Austell,  
Cornwall, PL25 4FD

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

### **COVID-19 asymptomatic staff testing programme across Aspire academies**

I wanted to update you on the latest initiative being rolled across all primary schools in England – a mass asymptomatic COVID-19 testing programme for staff only, known as lateral flow testing. I know this will be of particular interest to those of you whose children are currently attending an Aspire academy due to critical worker/vulnerable pupil status.

Every primary school in England will have access to this rapid coronavirus testing from w/c 25<sup>th</sup> January to help keep staff safe and in work (whether it's on site or delivering remote learning off site). This programme is slightly different to that of secondary schools' as it focusses solely on adults, rather than pupils.

Aspire academy staff will be requested to carry out a self-test twice a week, first thing in the morning, on an ongoing basis. If a member of staff tests positive, they will immediately notify their school/academy and follow COVID-19 government guidelines. Please be aware that in a positive test scenario, you may receive communication of a bubble closure (if your child is in school) at extremely short notice, if staffing ratios are impacted.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking as a Trust, these tests will help our staff to remain in work safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to curb the spread of the virus and keep us open to those critical worker parents who have no other option than to send their child in.

We remain resolute to offer mass asymptomatic testing to our Aspire staff community. The Aspire Academy Trust recognises the individual and collective social responsibility we have to protect all within our communities by stopping the wider transmission of this virus.

I hope you remain safe and well and your child(ren)'s academy will continue to keep you updated with further news, as and when available.

Warm wishes,

Mrs V Bragg  
**Aspire CEO**

