



Woodbridge School COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for Pupils

Version Number:	V 1.2 Final
Applies to:	Senior School
Author (s):	Deputy Head (Pastoral)
Stakeholder(s):	Head of School; Operations Bursar; School Nurse.
Review Frequency:	Annual
Policy category (1, 2, 3, 4):	3
Last reviewed:	Michaelmas term 2021
Next review due by:	Michaelmas term 2022
Approved on (date):	25.10.21
Committee Responsible:	Senior Management Team (SMT)
References (including legal and others eg ISBA):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ISBA guidance and model policy on COVID-19 vaccination for pupils;• Various guidance published by the Government including the UK Health and Security Agency and Public Health England;• NHS;• Hertfordshire and East Anglia Community and School Age Immunisation Team.
Other related policies and documents:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Woodbridge School COVID19 Policy Roadmaps May 2021 and August 2021;• Medical and First Aid Policy and Procedure;• Health and Safety Policy.

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1. Introduction

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) previously advised COVID-19 vaccination of all children and adults aged 16 and over in England as well as limited groups of children aged 12 to 15 years old. It was recently announced that all children aged 12 to 15 in England will also be offered the first does of the COVID-19 vaccine.

2. Policy statement

2.1 This COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for Pupils (the “Policy”) sets out Woodbridge School’s (the “School”) approach to pupil vaccination against the coronavirus (COVID-19). It supplements, but does not replace, the School’s:

- COVID19 Policy Roadmaps May 2021 and August 2021;
- Medical and First Aid Policy and Procedure;
- Health and Safety Policy.

2.2 The information set out in this Policy is taken from guidance on the NHS, Public Health England and other government websites that are updated frequently. While we will try to keep this Policy up to date, we strongly recommend that parents and pupils familiarise themselves with the relevant NHS, Public Health England and other guidance and check regularly for updates. We will also issue updates to parents and pupils as required if changes to government guidance affect this Policy.

2.3 The Governors have overall responsibility for the effective operation of this Policy but have delegated responsibility for overseeing its implementation to the Head. Suggestions for change should be reported to the Operations Bursar.

2.4 In this Policy, “you” or “parent” means each person who has parental responsibility for a current pupil at the School.

3. Who does this policy apply to?

3.1 This Policy applies to all parents and pupils aged 12 and over attending the School.

4. Background

- 4.1 The coronavirus pandemic continues to have an impact on our lives, and on how we operate as a School.
- 4.2 The School understands that there may be parents and/or eligible pupils who are concerned about getting vaccinated. The information provided by the government, the NHS and Public Health England is that the approved vaccines are safe and effective and offer the best protection against COVID-19.

5. What this means for you

- 5.1 While we encourage all eligible pupils to get the vaccine if they are able to do so, we recognise that some parents and/or pupils may have concerns about the coronavirus vaccine for a number of reasons.
- 5.2 We have given consideration to the government vaccination programme as part of our coronavirus risk assessment. The government has not made vaccination mandatory for children and young people attending school, and we do not consider it necessary, or appropriate, for us to make it a requirement that any pupil be vaccinated in order to attend the School.
- 5.3 We therefore do not require any pupil to have the vaccine.
- 5.4 Any bullying, harassment or victimisation of a pupil in relation to the pupil's and/or their parents' vaccination choice will not be tolerated.

6. Proof of Vaccination

- 6.1 For the moment, we do not intend to ask you to provide information about whether your child will have or has had the vaccine. However, this will be kept under review and may change.

7. Absences for vaccination

- 7.1 If an eligible pupil is invited to have their vaccine during normal school hours as part of the schools-based vaccination programme, they may take time out of their scheduled classes to attend their vaccination appointment.
- 7.2 If a pupil has a vaccine appointment during normal school hours off the school premises, for instance if a pupil between the ages of 16 and 18 is having their first or second dose of the vaccine, parents should inform the School as soon as possible of the time and date of any appointment. Parents should, if asked to do so, show proof of the appointment, e.g. the letter from the NHS confirming their child's vaccination appointment or a screenshot of the text message you have received.
- 7.3 Pupils will not be permitted to leave the school grounds during school hours to attend vaccine appointments without written parental consent. This is in line with the School's policy on attending medical appointments.

7.4 If you book a vaccination appointment privately, you should try to arrange for it to take place outside of school hours at the beginning or end of the school day where possible to minimise disruption to your child's education.

8. Consent

8.1 Parental consent will be sought by the local school aged immunisation teams for the schools-based vaccination programme.

8.2 The School will play its part in, amongst other things, hosting the vaccination programme and distributing consent forms, letters and information leaflets as directed by authorities. It is not legally responsible for processing, checking or otherwise administering the consent or vaccination process.

8.3 In circumstances where there is a disagreement between a parent and a pupil in relation to immunisation, a meeting will be held between the parent, the pupil and a clinician. Ultimately, the clinician will determine whether the pupil is competent to make a decision with regard to their own immunisation.

8.4 The School will not be involved in securing consent, assessing Gillick competence or mediating disagreements between a parent and a pupil. This is the responsibility of the school aged immunisation teams.

9. Processing personal data

9.1 The UK Health Security Agency's guidance confirms that all schools' immunisation services are compliant with the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR).

9.2 Information relating to a pupil's vaccination is health information, i.e. special category data. The School may need to process such information to record:

9.2.1 Any pupil absence to get the vaccine if not part of the schools-based programme; and

9.2.2 Any pupil absence due to side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine.

9.3 Any such processing will take place in accordance with the School's Data Protection procedures.

9.4 Our lawful basis for processing this special category data under data protection law is to comply with our legal obligations and the substantial public interest, and to provide a safe environment for our staff and pupils by helping to prevent the spread of the virus and comply with our duty of care.

9.5 The decision to continue to collect this data will be kept under review in light of changing Government guidance and as the vaccination roll-out reaches more people. This will take place in line with reviews of the School's risk assessments. The data will not be held for longer than is necessary and will be securely deleted or destroyed appropriately.

9.6 The School cannot give a fixed retention period at this stage, as this will depend on external factors, but it will be reviewed for deletion periodically.

9.7 For more information on how we handle parent and pupil personal data (including special category data), please see the School's Privacy Notice's for Parents and Pupils available on the website. If you have any queries or concerns in this regard, please contact the School's Data Protection Officer Richard Stone (rstone@seckford-foundation.org.uk).

10. Changes to this Policy

We reserve the right to modify this Policy at any time to adapt to changing circumstances and school needs, consistent with our health and safety and other legal obligations.

11. Compliance and Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure that practice in the School is in line with this policy, the Complaints procedure and with current guidance and legislation. If required, it will be published on the organisations website and if appropriate, be made available to pupils, parents and other individuals or organisations on request.

The School has identified a range of Assurance methodologies as tools by which compliance with policies can be tested. Those most relevant to this policy include:

- External audit;
- Internal Audit;
- Governor visit/report;
- Reports provided to Governors, our governance committees and School Head.