



# Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

Executive Headteacher/CEO: Alun Williams

Registered Address: Norton Hill Primary School, Silver Street, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2UD

Company No: 7365778

15<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you about the proposed vaccination programme for 12-15 year olds which the Government intends to administer via schools. As is often the case, schools are called upon to co-ordinate and manage whole-scale medical processes, for example the HPV vaccine, to oral hygiene in the Early Years Foundation phase. Naturally, we are also trying to educate children as well as take responsibility it seems, for righting the ills of society and setting up as temporary medical centres.

I would imagine that many of you would be very surprised at the range of statutory responsibilities that we in schools are accountable for, some well-outside of the remit of teaching children. Nevertheless, we are public servants and must react and support the wishes of the Government, no matter how difficult this might be.

Later this month we are likely to be charged with managing a vaccine programme for the 12-15 age group in school time. This will cause the following disruption for schools and children:

- 1) Schools are likely to be asked to administer the consent process. This is where we ask you as parents and carers about whether you wish your child to be vaccinated. **At this point in time, the Government is unclear about whether children over the age of 12 will be able to give or withdraw their own consent without parental involvement. I know this is a contentious legal issue and we will not be vaccinating any children in school without parental consent. Should there be a disagreement between a child and their parent about whether to be vaccinated or not, then this will need to be discussed further with your GP.**
- 2) Teachers, support staff and children will be disrupted from normal lessons. Vaccinating large numbers of children will require groups to wait for considerable periods of time before vaccination and no doubt many children will need support after their injection to recover.
- 3) We expect there to be anti-vaccination demonstrations in some school settings that will require the input of the Headteacher, other school leaders, teaching staff and support staff to manage. This could be upsetting for your child, so please do remind them that if they feel unsafe as a result of any protest, they must report this to school staff immediately.
- 4) Space will need to be found in schools for the vaccination programme to be administered. As many of you will know, our secondary schools are rather busy environments and therefore I anticipate children having fewer facilities available to them during any vaccination programme.

Whilst we may well be asked to host and arrange the logistics of the vaccination programme for children in our school buildings, I wish to make it clear that we do not hold any view on the efficacy of the programme and neither will we encourage or discourage pupils to receive or reject the vaccine. **This is for you as parents and carers to discuss with your children at home.**





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Our role in schools will be determined by the Department for Education and we will be expected to comply with legislation. **Therefore, please do not write to Headteachers, me as CEO, or Trustees about your views on vaccination, consent, etc. Address these concerns directly to the Department for Education, or your local MP.**

As always, we do want to help everyone to be as safe as possible and we will do as directed by the Government, but I did want you to be aware of the issues a vaccination programme may cause and that we do not as an organisation support any particular view on the vaccination of children.

The school immunisation service that will run the programme have contacted schools in the Trust and you will soon receive further information about e-consent forms and the days when vaccination will take place in your child's school.

Thank you for your support in helping schools to begin to return to normal this term. So far, we have had a very positive start across all primary, special and secondary schools.

Yours sincerely

Alun Williams  
CEO

