

# St Matthew's Catholic Primary School



## COVID-19 Update Procedures September 2021



### Updates of COVID-19 Information

Dear Parents,

Please see important information below.

As I am sure you are aware guidance is changing regularly.

It is **VITAL** this guidance below is followed.

### **Overview**

As the country moves to **Step 4** of the COVID reopening roadmap, the government will continue to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. This marks a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from some restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk.

School's priority will continue to be deliver the face-to-face, high quality education to all pupils.

The government have worked closely with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) And Public Health England (PHE) to revise their guidance.

### **Mixing and 'bubbles'**

The new guidance states that as we move forward there will be no need for bubbles in school. However following advice from Liverpool Local Authority we will remain cautious initially in September because we do not know what the summer changes in guidance will do to the number of COVID cases in Liverpool. We will be keeping the staggered start, staggered end, face masks on school grounds. We will be relaxing the class bubbles in some way, but we will be still be avoiding mixing until the picture is clearer in September.

### **Tracing close contacts and isolation**

Settings will only need to do contact tracing up to **Step 4**.

From **Step 4**, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS

Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. You may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

**From 16 August 2021**, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case.

Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. School will continue to encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

School will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is an outbreak in a setting or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, a director of public health might advise school to temporarily reintroduce some control measures.

### **Face coverings**

**From 19 July**, face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. **From 19 July**, the government is removing the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school or college. As a school we will however continue to ask adults to wear face coverings until we know more. This is noted in our school risk assessments.

### **Stepping measures up and down**

School will have outbreak management plan outlining how we will operate if there were an outbreak in our school or our local area.

If school has several confirmed cases within 14 days, this will be classed as an outbreak. School will call the dedicated advice service who will escalate the issue to our local health protection team who will advise if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of our outbreak management plan.

### **Control measures**

In school:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

**Hand hygiene** - frequent and thorough hand cleaning will be regular practiced. Continuing to ensure that our pupils clean their hands regularly. This will be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

**Respiratory hygiene** - The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important in school.

## **Public Health Advice**

Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, we will send them home and they should follow public health advice.

For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.

If a pupil is awaiting collection, will be isolated in our First Aid room and PPE will be worn by staff.

The household (including any siblings) should follow the PHE stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

## **Asymptomatic Testing**

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within school. That is why, whilst some measures are relaxed and others will remain in school. In response to the latest epidemiological data, we all need to be prepared to step measures up or down in future depending on local circumstances.

## **Confirmatory PCR tests**

Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID19.

**Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.**

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

## **Tracing up until Step 4 (19<sup>th</sup> July)**

Until **Step 4**, we expect you to continue to fulfil your contact tracing responsibilities. Where a case is identified, the designated staff member will initiate contact tracing procedures.

From **Step 4 (19<sup>th</sup> July)**, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace. School may be contacted in exceptional cases to identify close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases. School will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak.

Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do.

## **Admitting children into school**

Parents and carers are expected to agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending school, school will make the decision to refuse the pupil if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection.

## Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.



Where a child is required to self-isolate or quarantine because of COVID-19 in accordance with relevant legislation or guidance published by PHE or the DHSC they should be recorded as code X (not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus).

Where they are unable to attend because they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 they should be recorded as code I (illness).

For pupils abroad who are unable to return, code X is unlikely to apply. In some specific cases, code Y (unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances) will apply.

## Travel and quarantine

We must adhere to travel legislation, details of which are set out in government travel advice.

Parents travelling abroad should bear in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return.

## Schools Response to Any Infection

School response to anyone displaying signs of infection:

- **Parents must inform school immediately of any engagement if test is carried out on any close family members or friends. School must be informed of the outcome of a test.**

School office: [office@stmatthewscps.co.uk](mailto:office@stmatthewscps.co.uk)



## Road Safety

- Can **ALL** parents please avoid parking outside of school to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all.
- Please be aware Highways England is working closely with Liverpool Authority at this difficult time.
- They will be sending out traffic wardens to monitor the situations outside of school and **WILL** be issuing fines if necessary.



**slower speeds,  
safer streets**



School have signed up with the Local Authority initiative called the WOW Project (walk to school) - more information will follow about this project.

As a part of this school will be working with the local ASDA and they have agreed that our parents can park in there carpark when dropping off and collecting children.

This will be a great option for parents to ensure safety of all concerned and to support the Government drive & walk/ cycle as much as possible at this time.

### Staggered Times

**Small Groups:** All children will be split into groups and each group will have their own entry and exit times to avoid crossovers and limit the number of people in the school grounds at any one time - to ensure appropriate social distancing.

**Staggered Times:** In order to avoid crowds at the beginning and end of the day and to comply with social distancing guidelines we have staggered the start and end time for each year group. We will be continuing to follow the one-way system already in place. Please see details for year groups below.



- **Reception – 8.40am**
- **Year 1 and Year 2 – 8.45am**
- **Year 3 and Year 4 – 8.50am**
- **Year 5 and Year 6 – 8.55am**
- **Siblings – 9.00am**



### **New Reception Parents: Please note.**

Your child/ren will have been allocated part-time settling in sessions from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**Important:** Parents must adhere to the drop off times to ensure the safety of everybody. Children will only be allowed into school at their allotted drop off time.



**Parents Exit:** Parents say goodbye at your child's school entrance point. Staff will be there to direct children to their small group. As parents leave they will be asked to follow the one way system in place. When parents arrive to collect their child/ren from school they will be asked to use the same one way system as in the morning. A member of school staff will be manning and monitoring the entrance and exit points.



- **Reception – 2.40pm**
- **Year 1 and Year 2 – 2.45pm**
- **Year 3 and Year 4 – 2.50pm**
- **Year 5 and Year 6 – 2.55pm**
- **Siblings – 3.00pm**







