

St. Joseph's R.C. Primary School

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Acting Headteacher: Mr Hoyes

RE: COVID-19 Control Measures Guidelines for Parents & Visitors

Dear Parents/Cares

Upon our return to school in September we shall continue implementing a number of COVID-19 control measures to protect the health and safety of our school community in line with the department for education guidance: *Schools COVID-19 operational guidance*. Please read this information carefully and familiarise yourself these measures. If you have any questions with regards any of this information measures please feel free to speak to a member of staff directly. Thank you in advance for your support with these measures.

Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils from September 2021.

Managing the Symptoms of Coronavirus

- No child should attend school if they have symptoms of Coronavirus. If a child displays symptoms of Coronavirus they should self-isolate and take a PCR test.
- If a child in the school develops COVID-19 symptoms, they will be sent home and they should follow public health advice.
- If a pupil tests negative on a PCR test and if they feel well, they can stop self-isolating and return to school
- If a pupil tests positive, they should continue to self-isolate in line with public health guidance

The NHS defines the symptoms of Coronavirus as:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Contact Tracing

- If a child tests positive for Coronavirus, NHS track and trace will identify and inform close contacts. The school will not, unless contacted by the NHS, take a lead on track and trace procedures
- Pupils who are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 do not need to self-isolate
- They should instead get a PCR test, and should only self-isolate if they test positive
- Children do not need to isolate whilst awaiting test results if they have been in contact with a positive case unless they develop symptoms themselves

Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

The government has removed 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.

Mixing and 'bubbles'

We no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). This means that bubbles will not need to be used for any provision in schools from the autumn term.

This means that assemblies can resume; we no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch; we no longer need to operate staggered arrivals, dismissals and break times.

Hand hygiene

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning will remain as regular practice.

Respiratory hygiene

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important and will be encouraged for all pupils.

Keep occupied spaces well ventilated

All classrooms will continue to be kept well-ventilated whilst maintaining comfortable temperatures.

Cleaning Regimes

We shall continue to implement an enhanced cleaning regime with the regular cleaning of frequently used areas, surfaces and equipment.

Mr Hoyes

(Acting Headteacher)