

St Joseph's Catholic Academy



Guidance for Parents and Children to Promote and Maintain Safer Working Practice During Covid-19 – September 2021

This guidance booklet is intended as a source of guidance and reference for all parents and carers of the children of St Joseph's Catholic Academy during the current Covid-19 pandemic. This is a working document and will be adapted in accordance with government guidelines. All parents are asked and encouraged to follow all procedures and guidance to protect themselves, and others.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our wonderful children back to school next week. Attendance at school during this academic year continues to be more important than ever but we understand that some families may have anxieties about their children attending school now that many of our control measures have been removed. This guidance document will help you to understand how we are following all DfE guidance for schools. We will be endeavouring for our school environment and school life to return to normal wherever possible.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding attendance, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Hamilton. Our risk assessment is also available on our website and will be updated regularly in accordance with government updates. The DfE have provided updated guidance for schools for September 2021. This guidance document is in full accordance with the DfE guidance.

The DfE have also produced guidance for parents which can be found following the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

As the country has moved to Step 4 of the Roadmap the below guidance will be followed at St. Joseph's Catholic Academy. It is our priority that ALL children have a high quality face to face education whilst ensuring our schools are as safe as possible.

We will continue with the below control measures:

Control Measures

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.

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone

We will continue to ensure that frequent and thorough hand cleaning with soap and water or hand sanitiser continues to be regular practice for all of our children.

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important and will be encouraged with all of our school community.

2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes

Our schools have in place a thorough and appropriate cleaning schedule. This includes regular cleaning of areas and equipment (for example, twice per day), with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.

3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated

Wherever possible we will keep all rooms well ventilated by opening windows, internal doors and where safe to do so, external doors. We will balance the need for fresh air whilst also maintaining a comfortable temperature for our children. Poorly ventilated areas will be identified on the risk assessment and measure to improve ventilation identified.

4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

Pupils, staff and other adults are all advised to public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. No one should 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 our schools develops COVID-19 symptoms, **however mild**, we will send them home and they should follow public health advice. We appreciate that this may be inconvenient for parents at times but must insist on your co-operation.

If a child displays symptoms in school, they will be moved to a safe area where they are away from others. Parents/carers will be contacted to collect as soon as possible. The household (including any siblings) should follow the PHE stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

1. they are fully vaccinated
2. they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
3. they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
4. they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they 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. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Mixing and Bubbles

There will be no bubbles and full mixing of children and adults will resume. School practices such as assemblies will return. As before, parents may attend any events in school which they are invited to. We look forward to welcoming parents back to Success Assembly each Friday at 9.15am once the children are settled into the assembly routine again. Children can mix during lunch time and other periods during the school day.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are no longer required on the school grounds. Parents and carers may choose to continue to wear them if they wish.

Contingency Plans

Should the school have an 'outbreak' of COVID 19, we have a contingency plan to reinstate any measures required if asked to do so. This will be fully communicated to all parents.

Confirmatory PCR tests

Any person with a positive lateral flow 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 COVID-19.

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.

Remote Education

Our school has a clear policy for remote education. We will provide remote education for children as soon as possible. Remote education will be provided when a child cannot attend as they would be going against government guidance or legislation around Covid-19.

If you have any further questions, please contact the school office.