



## St Joseph's Catholic Academy

Member of the Newman Catholic Collegiate

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Principal- Mrs L Hamilton

10<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am sure that you will be aware of the increase in Covid cases both locally and nationally in recent weeks. The increase in cases at St Joseph's remains comparatively small; however we have seen a very slight increase in cases over the last week in particular.

As you know, we take the health of our pupils, staff and families very seriously and are keen to stop any further increase in cases if at all possible.

With this in mind and following advice from Public Health England, the following measures will be reintroduced from **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021** for two weeks until October half term.

1. Parents will not be permitted into school for any assemblies or other events.
2. Large indoor gatherings including assemblies will take place remotely.
3. The children will return to eating lunch in their classrooms. Nursery and Reception will eat in the dining room (as they do not have enough tables in the classroom) but will remain separate.
4. Staff will wear face coverings at the start and end of the day.
5. We are advising parents to wear face coverings when on school premises (when dropping and collecting children- Please note this is only advice and will not be enforced.)
6. Affected classrooms will be deep cleaned as required.

We will review these measures at half term and very much hope that they will no longer be needed. I have not taken this decision lightly and have decided only to reintroduce measures that will mean children do not miss any of their education unnecessarily. All other arrangements remain the same. Children will be able to mix at before and after school club, mix outdoors at break and lunch time and after school clubs. There is no change to the times for the start and end of the day.

The school lunch menu will remain the same; you can find a copy on our website. Children will be asked to order their school lunch at morning registration so that it can be delivered to their classroom.

Other procedures such as regular handwashing, increased ventilation and increased cleaning will continue as they have been all term.

I wish to reassure you that we have not had large numbers of cases in school and it is hoped that these measures will mean this remains the case.

Most importantly, you must support us and ensure if your child displays any of the below symptoms, you keep them at home and book a PCR test. If the PCR test comes back negative they may return to school.



- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

I know that some of you may be disappointed by this and some of you may feel that it is not enough; please be reassured that I have acted upon the advice of Public Health England.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Hamilton  
Principal

