

# St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School

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**‘Growing Together in Faith and Love’**

## Covid-19 Information for Parents for the Academic Year Ahead

The information below is fully in line with the new government guidance for schools.

### No Bubbles from September

In line with government guidance, there will no longer be class bubbles. Mixed year assemblies will resume and we no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch or playtime. However, Years 3 and 4 just due to high school numbers will have separate playtimes.

### Classroom Organisation

Children may now bring their own pencil cases. Children will no longer need to sit in rows – each teacher will organise their classroom in the best way for teaching and learning for the children in their class. Children will no longer be required to come to school on PE days dressed in PE kit. Kits should be brought to school on the designated class PE day, or left here Monday to Friday. Please ensure children have the correct PE kit, white t-shirt and navy shorts – no logos, please no pink, patterned or logo jogging bottoms black, navy or grey, are acceptable as school PE uniform.

### Morning drop off and end of the day pickup

We will resume the usual school day start and end times. Please note the walking bus will be reinstated on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. Drop off time is between 8.35am – 8.50am. If your child needs to be here before 8.35am they will need to go to breakfast club. We encourage parents to ‘drop off’ and then leave. This means you do not park up, you simply pull into the layby drop off and go.

### Face Coverings

From September 2021 face coverings will no longer be advised by the government for staff in communal areas nor for visitors to the school. However, the guidance states that the government ‘**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’. Therefore, as a school we would strongly encourage you to wear a mask when visiting the school and especially when picking up your child at the end of the day because the playground will be very crowded. Maintaining social distance is **strongly advised** at this time.

If we have an outbreak in our school, a director of public health might well advise that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms by staff and visitors (unless exempt).



## The following ongoing control measures will remain in place:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone

### Hand hygiene

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning are regular practice. We will continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly, either with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

### Respiratory hygiene

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important in promoting good hand and respiratory hygiene and will be referred to and promoted regularly.

### Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents

We will continue to put in place and maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule which includes regular cleaning of areas and equipment, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.

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

### When an individual develops Covid-19 symptoms or has a positive test

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 our school develops Covid-19 symptoms, however mild, we will send them home and they should follow public health advice. **It is essential that we have the most up-to-date contact details for all emergency contacts and that parents/carers have arrangements in place for their child to be collected as a matter of urgency in such situations.**

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

### Confirmatory PCR tests

Staff will still carry out regular lateral flow testing until the end of September when this will be reviewed. Regular visitors and external providers should also take part in regular testing. (LFD tests are used to identify asymptomatic cases. Anyone with symptoms of Covid-19 should book a PCR test as a matter of urgency).

Staff 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 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/adult can return to school, as long as the individual does not have Covid-19 symptoms.

## **Remote education**

Not all people with Covid-19 have symptoms.

We will maintain our capacity to deliver high quality remote education for the next academic year for pupils who are self-isolating but able to study from home. School laptops are available to borrow where necessary in such situations.

## **Clinically Extremely Vulnerable People (CEV)**

Clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) people are no longer advised to shield by may wish to take extra precautions to protect themselves, and to follow the practical steps set out in the CEV guidance to minimise their risk of exposure to the virus.

## **Free School Meals**

We will continue to provide free school meal support to any pupils who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals and who are learning at home during term time.

## **Educational visits**

We will continue to undertake full and thorough risk assessments in relation to all educational visits and ensure that any public health advice, such as hygiene and ventilation requirements are included as part of that risk assessment.

## **Steps to take in the case of a local outbreak**

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

The school's Leadership Team and Governing Board will ensure that our Outbreak Management Plan covers actions that it may be necessary to take. We may be advised to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups. This would mean that we might need to revert to staggered breaks and lunch in classrooms. A return to staggered home times might also be necessary to reduce congestion on the playground at pick up time.

