

St Augustine's Priory

Adaptations to school life after Covid-19

updated 04/03/2021

Introduction

This document should be read in conjunction with the *Operational Risk Assessment for Covid-19*. It is mainly intended for staff, but may be a useful guide to others as to what has changed since the onset of the pandemic and since most pupils were in school before Christmas.

Overriding consideration

The health and safety of our pupils and staff is paramount. All reasonable steps must be taken to minimise opportunities for cross infection.

Government guidance

Please refer to government guidance at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

If in doubt as to which guidelines to follow, the Government guidance prevails.

Principles

All pupils are back in school with effect from 8th March 2021.

Breaks

- Breaks will be in areas designated by year group
- The drinking water fountain in the prep playground is not to be used. Other water fountains may be used for bottle filling only.
- Staff should take their breaks in the allocated Refectory or allocated staff room

Bubbles

- The school is divided into two separate bubbles – juniors and seniors – and all reasonable steps must be taken to eliminate cross-contamination between the two, including
- Keeping senior and junior girls separate at lunch and break times
- Designating each set of WCs for juniors or seniors
- Keeping staff who teach only seniors separate from those who teach only juniors

Classrooms

- Windows and doors are to be kept open if possible, unless doors are marked as fire doors
- Desks have been orientated in straight lines with 2m between pupils and the teacher's desk wherever space permits

- Floors are marked with lines to indicate a safe distance between teacher and pupils
- Lights are not to be switched on/off if possible
- Surfaces are to be wiped clean on finishing and by any incoming class
- Books, laptops, toys etc are to be sterile wiped before and after use

Cleaning and hygiene

- Guidance widely issued about the importance of hand hygiene must be followed
- Enhanced cleaning will take place during the day
- Pupils and staff should bring in their own wipes, hand sanitiser etc if possible
- Catch it, bin it, kill it
- Hand sanitising stations are provided at entry points and through the school

Emergency procedures

- First aid will be administered by trained first aiders only
- Fire procedures are unchanged except that distancing between bubbles will be maintained as far as is compatible with a speedy, calm and efficient evacuation; juniors gather on the far netball court, seniors on the near one

Events

- Events and fixtures will start again as soon as government guidance allows.

Face coverings

- Face coverings will be worn in accordance with government guidance
- Pupils have been advised to bring their own mask with a box to school
- Staff should bring own masks and/or visor to school if required
- Guidance will be provided on the use of masks, gloves and PPE

Lunch

- Lunch will be provided
- Packed lunches may be brought in
- Pupils should bring a reusable water bottle to school
- As much outdoor seating as possible will be provided

Masses, Assemblies, staff meetings, briefings etc

- Gatherings of larger groups of pupils and/or staff will not take place unless social distancing can be achieved, ie. out of doors or in the large marquee

Mental health

- Your mental health is extremely important. Do talk to a colleague if you are feeling anxious or stressed.

Movement around the school

- Pupils will be based in their form room where possible and staff will move to them
- Junior pupils will enter and leave the school through the Prep Playground gate
- Senior pupils will enter and leave the school through the Chapel gate
- A one-way system is in place in corridors and on stairways

Music

- Group singing in class or assemblies will not take place. Remote singing and assemblies will be organised.
- Musical instruments are not to be shared

Reception

- Staff arrivals and departures should not come through Reception if possible. Staff should advise of arrival/departure by phone and school office staff will sign them in/out.
- Social distancing from Reception desk is to be enforced by screens / floor markings / positioning furniture

Staff rooms

- Staff are to use only the staff room specifically allocated to them
- Only one member of staff at a time may use the offices on the HODs corridor. Staff who share an office should make arrangements to avoid both being in the office at the same time.

Testing

- Testing takes place routinely in the Hall and is the subject of a separate protocol and risk assessment

Uniform, lockers and changing rooms

- Pupils are required to wear school uniform
- Social distancing must be maintained in locker rooms

Visitors

- Only essential visitors such as maintenance contractors should come into the school buildings; they should be asked to wear masks during their visit.

Weather and use of outside space

- Breaks and lunch will be taken outside whenever possible. Only in the event of severely inclement weather will pupils be allowed to use form rooms for breaks and lunch.
- Pupils should bring a coat and a spare pair of shoes or trainers if the forecast indicates the need

Whistleblowing

- Please refer to the school's whistleblowing policy for guidance on what to do if you are concerned about any wrongdoing.