



Adaptations to school life after Covid-19

updated 01/09/2021

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 the relaxation of restrictions with effect from September 2021.

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.

Breaks

- Breaks will no longer need to 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.
- There are no longer designated areas for staff breaks. Staff may take their breaks wherever they wish.

Bubbles

- The school is no longer divided into two separate bubbles. However, all pupils and staff should remain vigilant and diligent relating to “Hands, Face, Space” and do all that is practically possible to prevent the spread of the virus.

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.
- 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 revert to pre-Covid arrangements with the whole school gathering on the nearer netball court where a register will be taken.

Events

- Events involving visitors to the school will recommence this term. Event organisers will develop their own protocols to promote the safety of all involved.

Face coverings

- In line with Government guidance, face coverings will not be required in classrooms but will be expected in corridors. However, if pupils or staff would prefer to wear a face covering in classrooms then the community will support them.

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.
- Restrictions on seating in the refectories will no longer apply.

Masses, Assemblies, staff meetings, briefings etc

- Gatherings of larger groups will take place as before COVID, while observing sensible precautions with regards to keeping everyone safe.

Mental health

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

Movement around the school

- Junior pupils will continue to enter and leave the school through the Prep Playground gate.
- Senior pupils will continue to enter and leave the school through the Chapel gate.
- There is no longer a one-way system in place in corridors and on stairways.

Music

- Group singing will recommence in chapel, class and assemblies.

Reception

- We have a new card based entry system. Staff should check-in using the card reader either in Reception or on the Clock Tower building. This is vital to ensure we know who is and is not on site in the event of a fire.
- Screens will continue to be used in Reception for the time being.

Sports Fixtures

- Sports fixtures will start again this term.
- Visiting teams will park their minibus in the Minibus Bay and proceed through the Chapel Gate to either the AstroTurf or the netball courts.
- Match teas will be served either outside or in the marquee.

Staff rooms

- Staff are able to use the staff rooms in the same way as before COVID.
- Staff who share an office on the HODS corridor will be able to use the office at the same time.

Testing

- All staff are requested to carry out Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing at home twice a week.
- Agency staff are requested to carry out an LFD test before starting work and then to join the twice weekly regime.

Uniform, lockers and changing rooms

- Pupils are required to wear school uniform.
- Sensible precautions should be taken to promote social distancing in locker rooms but this does not need to be monitored by staff.

Visitors

- Visitors will be allowed on site in the same way as before COVID. Visitors may choose to wear masks if they wish and sensible precautions should be taken to promote social distancing.

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