



Adaptations to school life during Covid-19

Updated 05/01/2022

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 variation in Government guidelines for educational settings in response to the Omicron variant.

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

- CO2 monitors were installed in some classrooms last term and the evidence they have collected strongly indicates that regular ventilation is the best protection against a build-up of airborne particles, including Coronavirus. Therefore windows and, unless marked as fire doors, doors are to be kept open wherever possible while having regard for the comfort of the occupants (see Uniform section).
- Desks have generally been orientated in straight lines with 2m between pupils and the teacher’s desk wherever space permits. Teachers are advised to check their normal teaching classrooms before the start of term to ensure that this distancing has been preserved. If minimal changes to classroom layouts are needed to create this space, teachers are asked to make these changes themselves. If more significant changes are needed, please contact the Estates team.
- Floors are marked with lines to indicate a safe distance between teacher and pupils.



St Augustine's PRIORY

- 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 have changed in light of the erection of the Temporary Hall. If the fire alarm sounds the whole school will gather on the Astro turf pitch where a register will be taken. Evacuation routes and exits for each area of the school have been designated. Please can all staff check the route and exit for the classrooms in which they normally teach. The arrangements for taking the register at the Astro turf pitch are attached to this document.

Events

- Events involving visitors to the school will continue 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 be required in classrooms and in corridors.

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

- A rota to reflect reduced numbers of pupils in Hall/Chapel will continue this term as was the case last term.
- Staff meetings will continue remotely on MS Teams for the time being.

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.



St Augustine's PRIORY

Music

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

Reception

- We have a card based entry system. Staff must check-in using the card reader either in Reception or on the Clock Tower building. You should check out even if you are visiting the car park and not actually leaving the site. 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.
- Given the need to ventilate classrooms during a term when the weather will be cold, at the teacher's discretion pupils will be allowed to wear outdoor coats or school branded sports hoodies or tops to keep warm. For the avoidance of doubt non-school branded hoodies and other items are not permitted and will be confiscated.
- 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. Visitors will wear masks and sensible precautions will 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 during the Lent term.

Whistleblowing

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