

ST VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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1 September 2021

Advice to All Parents - Return to school

Dear Parents,

We hope that you have managed to enjoy some rest and family time over the summer holidays. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our children and parents back to school.

Last academic year was unprecedented for us and, whilst the changes we had in place were necessary to control the spread of the virus, we hope that this year the children can remain in school.

You will be aware that guidance from the government has changed since 16th August; so the way positive cases of COVID-19 will be handled in schools will change from the September term. The helpdesk@ email address will remain in place for reporting positive cases. The operational plan and risk assessment, based on this guidance and sent to parents in July, can be found on our website on the following links:

- [Covid Operational Plan for Parents](#)
- [Covid Risk Assessment](#)

You will see from our risk assessment that parents are now permitted to enter the playground; please make use of our extensive grounds and give other parents, children and staff the space to feel safe. We ask that parents do not crowd the classroom doors.

As with all of our risk assessments, our measures are dependent on positive cases in school. Further measures may need to be introduced if the cases in school accelerate.

The school will continue to ensure that pupils/staff affected by confirmed cases of COVID-19 do not attend until the end of their self-isolation period. Contact tracing will be carried out by NHS Test and Trace and advice will be offered to contacts. Any contacts aged under 18 years and 6 months will be exempt from isolation; however, in order to prevent avoidable spread in schools, we will still need your support with the following:

- If your child is identified as a contact please consider the following actions:
 - Book them in to take a PCR test as soon as possible (unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days); children aged 4 years and under who are identified as a contact will not be advised to take a PCR test unless the positive case was someone in their own household.
 - Where possible consider limiting contacts outside of school.
 - Take regular asymptomatic LFD tests twice weekly (recommended for 11 years and over).
 - If your child travels to school on public transport, a face covering should be worn on the journey.
 - This advice applies until 10 full days after your most recent contact with the person who has tested positive for COVID-19.



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- If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home. They must get a PCR test as soon as possible and isolate until the result is available; people who get a positive PCR test must continue to isolate as usual.

Symptomatic Testing

You can book a PCR test either online (on this link - <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>) or by calling 119. There are sites in Stretford, Partington, and Trafford Park, plus some larger drive-through sites a little further afield at Manchester Airport and the Etihad Stadium. The closest available site will be shown to you when booking; sometimes the closest site does not show up so if all the sites shown are a long distance away, we recommend trying again in an hour or so; you can also order a PCR test to be sent directly to your home and post it back.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19; do:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel, if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>
- get vaccinated if eligible

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

We look forward to children returning to school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Harrop

