



English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School COVID-19 Return to School Arrangements ~ September 2021

Return to School in September 2021

Government guidance now allows school to remove the ***bubble structure, other social distancing measures*** and ***control measures*** that have been in place for children. However, as a Governing Board, we have decided to continue with our separate bubbles and staggered start and finish times and lunchtimes for the foreseeable future and will be reviewed at half term.

However, we need to be clear that the pandemic has not gone away and as per government guidelines, we now need to learn to live with Coronavirus. As such some general measures will need to remain in place. From time to time, our arrangements may need to be reviewed in the event of any increase in infections or changes in government guidelines.

Below details some key changes to be aware of.

Please see [Government guidance](#) for latest information

The School Day

The school day will continue to run as last year.

We ask parents to be at the relevant entrance points promptly to support the organisation of the school day. Ensuring your children are in school promptly has a huge impact on their learning.

Entrance and Exit Points

During the Covid-19 pandemic we have used different ways of entering and leaving our school site. These have been successful in many ways and we will be continuing with different entrance and exit points for different classes next term. As with all school procedures, we will be evaluating this as we move through the autumn term. The information below details the entrance points for your child's new class from 6th September 2021.

Collecting children at the end of the day. Parents should line up and wait at the relevant points to collect children in an organised and orderly way. Children will be handed over to the parents in an organised way and leave the school site promptly.

Below is a reminder of start and finish times as well as entrance and exit points:



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	Start	Finish	Entrance/Exit
EYFS			
Nursery	9.15am	12.15pm	Top Car Park
Reception	9.10am	3.30pm	Top Car Park
KS1			
Year 1	8.55am	3.15pm	Ashmoor Street gate, main Playground
Year 2	8.55am	3.15pm	Top Car Park, using class fire exit
LKS2			
Year 3	8.45am	3.05pm	Top Car Park, using class fire exit
Year 4	9.10am	3.30pm	Ashmoor Street gate, main Playground
UKS2			
Year 5	8.55am	3.15pm	Side Gate and Path and Class Fire Door
Year 6	9.10am	3.30pm	Side Gate and Path and Class Fire Door

Equipment in school

We are again asking for personal belongings to be kept to a minimum, with children bringing in their lunch boxes, book bags (including reading books and reading records and of course any letters and homework), their coats only. Following the success last year of individual 'work/study' packs, each child from Year 2 to Year 6 will receive one of these which will be kept in school, therefore there is no need for pencil cases to be brought in.

P.E

Getting changed for P.E is a key part of children becoming independent. We are therefore asking that all P.E kits are once again brought into school at the beginning of term. We are continuing our partnerships with both TQ Sports for sport/PE provision and Little Yogis for our weekly Yoga sessions.

Lunchtimes and Break Times

Children will continue to eat in phases in the Hall with meals chosen the previous afternoon and 'Table Service' by staff will continue! As a school, we have found that the children are calmer and can be more sociable whilst eating by doing this, as well as less waste and children get the meal they want.

Playtimes will continue with children playing as their year groups in the zoned areas on the playground. We hope over the coming weeks, we will be able to structure playtimes as 'Phases' so that children in different year groups can play together. Again, this depends on local Covid rates.



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Prayer & Liturgies and Assembly

During the last 18 months whole school Prayer and Liturgies and any assemblies have been held on Teams. We know the importance of physically coming together as a whole school community however, we are going to re-introduce this slowly, with weekly Shining Stars Awards being held on Teams from a different class each week and uploaded to the school website. Whole school Prayer and Liturgies will be resumed over the coming weeks, again dependent on local Covid rates. However, class based Prayer and Liturgies will continue in class during the week.

School Events and Clubs

School events have changed dramatically over the last 18 months with many meetings taking place virtually and many usual events being unable to take place in the normal way. As we move through the autumn term we will be keeping you fully informed of any school events and clubs we are able to hold. I hope everyone understands that at this point we are not in a position to outline ***any extracurricular clubs or key events*** and ***we will do this upon the return of school in September.***

Over the last 18 months, we have had to adapt, be flexible in our approaches and constantly alter daily life. Some of these changes have been hard to make and left us without our usual structure and support networks and routines. However, some have been really positive and lessons we have learnt from. Certainly as a school, we have learnt from them, which is why we are keeping some changes from last year in place. These decisions have not been taken lightly and have been in consultation with the Governing Board as well as children, families and staff. We hope you also understand.



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Key Control Measures

During the last 18 months, school has functioned incredibly successfully and is now confident and experienced in working in the pandemic. As school reopens in September 2021 we will continue to have key control measures in place to prevent transmission of the virus which are in line with Government guidance.

Key Government Advice on control measure	Key school control measures
1.Ensure good hygiene for everyone	
Hand hygiene Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice. You should continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.	All children to clean hands on entry to school and at key points during the day including break times and lunch times by washing with soap and water or using hand sanitiser. School ensures adequate supplies of soap and hand sanitiser are available. Hygiene rules to be discussed with children regularly and posters displayed around school.
Respiratory Hygiene The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important.	The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach is promoted in school and discussed with children. Tissues are available and all children are briefed on procedures for blowing noses and disposal of waste. Lidded bins are provided in each area for waste disposal. Children are briefed on the importance of behaviour and school rules are revisited with all classes. School rules have been refreshed to reflect COVID – 19 and are discussed with all children daily and are evident around school. See behaviour policy.
Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) Most staff in schools will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work. The guidance on the use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care settings provides more information on the use of PPE for COVID-19.	All staff in school have access to PPE as required and will use in line with government guidance.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents	



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You should put in place and maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule. This should include regular cleaning of areas and equipment (for example, twice per day), with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces. PHE has published guidance on the cleaning of non-healthcare settings.	Each classroom has its own cleaning materials. All surfaces are cleaned at the start of each day, during the day, after each lesson and at the end of each day. Cleaning procedures are in place and monitored at start and end of the day. Cleaning procedures include regular cleaning of touch points. A daily health and safety check is done by Mr Green our Site Supervisor. These are done before the start of school each day to check all aspects of cleaning. Deep cleaning planned during school breaks and before wider reopening.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated	
When your school is in operation, it is important to ensure it is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained. Refer to Simple steps to Good Ventilation and the Ventilation Checklist	All rooms in the school have windows which are opened to create air flow and ventilation. Where possible windows will be left open during lessons, if this is not practical, windows will be fully opened when unoccupied to fully purge the air. At key points in the day ventilation is also improved through opening doors. At these times, increased consideration will be given to security of the building. All doors and windows will be closed at the end of the day. Any areas of school where there is poor ventilation will be identified and concerns addressed with the building surveyor.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19	
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 your school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, you should send them home and they should follow public health advice.	School will continue to work within Government guidance regarding Covid-19. In particular the following procedures are in place. • Regular asymptomatic staff testing, to be reviewed at the end of September • Isolation and testing of symptomatic members of the school community • Regular updates and reminders to parents of Covid-19 symptoms and school and government procedures • children do not attend school with Covid-19 symptoms



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Outbreak Management Plan

In the case of a Covid-19 outbreak it may be necessary to revert to a different school organisation once again. These procedures would be similar to those we have worked in during the last 18 months so parents and children should feel confident and at ease with them. Any procedures within this aspect of our management plan would be adapted to meet the needs of our children following ongoing risk assessments and changes in government and DfE guidance.