



St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

To love, serve and learn as Jesus shows us

COVID-19 Guidance: September 2021

This document forms part of a suite of COVID-19 school documents which should be read together and includes the COVID-19 School Risk assessment which can be found on the school website:

<https://www.stvincentsprimary.org/website/covid-19 - september 2021/570130>

COVID-19 is a changing situation and this document will be regularly updated according to local and national policy. School will continue to work with Public Health Warrington publichealth@warrington.gov.uk to ensure that we are as up-to-date as possible.

This document has been written in line with the following documents:

- Contingency framework: education and childcare settings [Contingency Framework](#)
- Schools COVID-19 Operational Guidance updated [DfE operational-guidance](#)

Risk Assessment

Our Risk Assessment has been reviewed, revisited and updated regularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, as is a legal requirement, based on the changing circumstances within school / locally / nationally, learning to date, the practices already developed, and considering the additional risks and control measures needed based on the current Government restrictions and DfE guidance.

This current risk assessment (September 2021 onwards) has been re-written in light of the lifting of restrictions, and outlines measures being implemented or, to be implement which are sensible and proportionate control measures which follow the health and safety hierarchy of controls to reduce the risk of transmission to the lowest reasonably practicable level.

These include:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

This risk assessment, which will be kept under regular review as the circumstances in school or the public health advice changes, has been shared with staff and Governors and is available on the school website for parents/carers.

Should the number of positive cases within school increase, or the threshold definition of an outbreak be met, then the Local Authority and Public Health England will support a review of the school risk assessment and additional measures may be reintroduced, following the school *Outbreak Management Plan*.

Attendance

All children *must* attend school and any concerns around attendance and punctuality will be followed up in line with the School Attendance and Punctuality Policy.

Current guidance no longer requires self-isolation for close contact so only those who test positive, will be required to isolate. This absence will be recorded in the same way as other absence due to illness.

Parents and carers travelling abroad should bear in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return.

Mixing and “Bubbles”

The DfE no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles') and therefore measures in place previously no longer need to apply. However some of the measures put in place will be continued or may be re-introduced following the contingency / outbreak management plan:

- Organisation of children within the classroom will no longer be restricted, and responsibility for classroom organisation is returned to the class teacher.
- Face-to-face assemblies and after-school clubs will re-commence from September (details to follow)
- We continue to encourage children to only bring what is necessary to school:
 - Lunchbox (cleaned daily at home)
 - Water bottle (cleaned daily and filled at home)
 - Coat if required
 - Reading book and school diary
 - Children can bring items in a bag if required, but this must be in line with school uniform expectations: book bag for all classes up to Year 5; small rucksack for Year 6
- All children will continue to enter and leave school directly through their classroom door
- Parents, carers or adults dropping off and picking up children can now enter the school playground. Entrances on both sides of school are open to spread out the number of people. Please use the gates closest to your child's classroom to enter / exit the school playground.
- Timings of the school day return to normal and are no longer staggered:
 - Gates open: 8.35am
 - Registration (start of school day): 8.45am
 - End of school day: 3.00pm
- From 29th November 2021, face covering are once again required on the playground at drop off and pick up times.

Visitors to school

Visitors and volunteers to school will continue to be limited initially, and a record of visitors will be maintained, including contact details, in case of potential infection. Necessary visitors to school will be notified of measures currently in place, and must be aware that they must not enter the school building if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus. This will remain under review. From 29th November 2021, only essential visitors will be allowed into school.

Communication with staff should continue to be via email, phone or your child's diary if possible but parents and carers will now be able to speak to staff before and after school. Meetings inside school will be kept to a minimum initially.

Educational visits

Educational visits can now resume. COVID-19 will be considered as part of the risk assessment undertaken, giving full and thorough consideration of any public health advice, such as hygiene and ventilation requirements.

School uniform

Usual uniform policy and expectation will resume for all children.

Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.

A navy fleece or additional layer can be worn as ventilation continues to be required.

For all children, PE kits should continue to be worn to school on the days your child has a PE lesson.

Planned action (Systems of control) to minimise the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) based on public health advice, endorsed by Public Health England (PHE).

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone

Hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning is now regular practice and will continue as a high priority. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

All adults and children MUST

- Clean their hands at least:
 - On arrival at school
 - Before and after breaktime and eating at lunchtime
 - After sneezing or coughing
 - Before and after going to the toilet
 - After using shared resources
 - When moving to a different room
- Be encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose
- Use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it')

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important and resources from the e-Bug COVID-19 website will be used to continue to remind children through PSHE.

Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)

- Most staff in schools will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:
 - Children whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way
 - If a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home.
- Face coverings are no longer advised for staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas, however we recommend that they continue to be worn on the playground where there is the potential for larger groups of people to be gathered.
- The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school or college.

2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes

To prevent the indirect spread of the virus from person to person, increased cleaning will be in place for frequently-touched surfaces.

Resources which are shared will be kept to a minimum however some will have to be shared and will need to be cleaned after use throughout the day.

All staff have access to cleaning cloths and products for use as required throughout the day.

3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated

Good ventilation reduces the concentration of the virus in the air, which reduces the risk from airborne transmission. This happens when people breathe in small particles (aerosols) in the air after someone with the virus has occupied and enclosed area.

School will be well ventilated, whilst ensuring that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained through adjusting heating levels and allowing children to wear an additional layer if they are cool, as outlined above.

When rooms are in use, at least one window will be kept open to maintain good and natural ventilation.

- In cooler weather windows will be opened just enough to provide constant background ventilation. When the room is not in use, (break time and lunchtime) ventilation will be increased by opening all windows to increase air flow.
- Furniture will be arranged to move children away from open windows where possible.
- In warmer weather, doors may also be opened as long as fire safety and safeguarding are not compromised. Where doors are opened, they will be shut and locked when a room is left empty to ensure the building remains secure.

Poorly ventilated spaces will be identified as part of the school risk assessment and steps to improve fresh air flow in these areas will be identified, giving particular consideration when holding events where visitors such as parents and carers are on site.

4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test

- Children, 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.
- Anyone with symptoms should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.
- If a child is awaiting collection, they will be isolated within school if possible and safe to do so. A window will be opened for fresh air ventilation if possible. Appropriate PPE will also be used if close contact by a member of staff is necessary. Any rooms they use will be cleaned after they have left.
- We will provide free school meal support to any families of children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals and who are required to isolate at home during term time.
- Not all individuals with COVID-19 have symptoms. Children will be supported to learn remotely during a period of self-isolation, following the *Remote Learning Policy*, when they are well enough to do so.

Those who live in the same household as someone who has test positive for COVID-19, or have been in close contact as defined below *, will no longer be required to isolate if:

- they are fully vaccinated**
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they taking part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

* Close contacts:

- Anyone who lives in the same household as another person who has COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19
- Anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19:
 - face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
 - anyone who has been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
 - anyone who has been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)
 - anyone who has travelled in the same vehicle as a case

** Fully vaccinated means that they have been vaccinated in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since they received the recommended doses of that vaccine.

They should take an LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Asymptomatic testing

- Staff should continue to do LFD tests twice weekly at home until the end of September when this will be reviewed.

Confirmatory PCR tests

- Staff and children with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#). They will also need to [get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19](#).
- Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.
- If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the individual can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.