

The following plan to re-open St Mary's to pupils in Reception/Nursery, Year 1, Year 6, vulnerable pupils and pupils whose parents are critical workers is based on the guidance provided by the Department for Education. The target is that school will open to these year groups from 1st June. This is a conditional plan and subject to change at any time.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

At St Mary's we have studied this guidance and aim to implement it as closely as possible. Each part of this plan is based on the principle of keeping children and staff safe and reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in our school building and in your homes and wider community.

For this reason, the basis of the plan is that all who enter the school site (children and staff) understand that a 2m distance must be kept between each other **at all times**. This is in line with DfE guidance which states *"Where settings can keep children and young people 2 metres away from each other, they should do so."*

All children who return to school, if we do reopen from the 1st June, will be well cared for. However, this will not be school as they know it and in many respects, the restrictions which will be placed on them in school **may** prove less valuable than the freedoms they enjoy in the home. Only you as parents can judge the right course of action and whatever you decide, we are here to support you and your children in any way we can.

This plan is based on the following principles:

#### **Children and Adults with underlying medical conditions**

Children and young people who are considered **extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding** should continue to shield and should not attend.

Children and young people who live in a household with someone who is **extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding** should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child or young person is able to understand and follow those instructions.

#### **Grouping children into 'bubbles'**

Children will be placed in a 'bubble' group. These groups will be carefully planned once we know the number of children who will be attending. The guidance states that the bubble will be a maximum of 15 children. Here at St Mary's due to the space we have our numbers are: Yr R/nursery max of 20

due to the larger space in the Early Years Unit. Yr 1 : groups of 11 or 12 based in classes 4 and 5, Yr 6 groups of 10 based in classes 10 and 11 and key workers/vulnerables in groups of 11 or 12 based in classes 6-8. Key worker/vulnerable children may then be split into Yr 2/3 and Yr 4/5 children. The groupings are non-negotiable but thought will be given to friendship groups. That said, there should be no physical contact within these groups so any children who are likely to be drawn together will be kept apart.

Each bubble will have an allocated adult (or maybe more than one adult). The adult will remain with the same group indefinitely. **It is highly unlikely that this adult will be your child's class teacher.**

### **A typical school day**

School start and finish times will be staggered. You will be allocated a time to drop off and collect your child. Parents will not be permitted to enter the school site and children must be handed over to their 'bubble' leader at the school gate. Only 1 adult should drop/collect their child to minimise the numbers congregating around school. Every effort will be made to comfort any children who are distressed, but this will need to be done within social distancing guidelines. More information regarding drop off/pick up routines will be made available nearer the time. There will be no after school clubs. **Due to all rooms being used by children or staff a thorough deep clean will be absolutely necessary each week so we may have to close from Friday lunchtime to enable this to happen.**

Once in school, the bubble will have a designated room in school. This will be their base. Within their base, children will be expected to adhere to the 2m distance rule at all times. The seating arrangements and set up will be different to what they may have been used to before the school closure.

The bubble will be allocated times throughout the day when they can go outside and a time when they can have lunch. These will be staggered but may have to overlap another group so play areas will have to be cordoned off and segregated. Week beg 1<sup>st</sup> June no hot meals will be served so a school packed lunch (Yrs Reception, Yr 1 and Yr 2 only) will be brought to the group's designated room. Alternatively, you may send your child with a packed lunch from home.

### **Curriculum**

We are still planning what curriculum to deliver. Any learning packs provided for children to complete in their designated individual workspace will also be provided for children who are not attending school. Each child will be given their own individual pack of equipment including pen, pencil, sharpener, ruler, coloured pencils, stationery etc which they will keep at their station throughout. Adult support will be provided, but from a 2m distance. School staff will utilise many of the online learning lessons which are currently on offer (e.g. BBC Bitesize, Oxford Owl, Oaklands academy etc). This includes the keyworker/vulnerable group who up until now have had an activity day focus. They will also move to a more formal school day. Uniform will be worn from 1<sup>st</sup> June for all groups.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Government guidance states that *"wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended."* As this is only a recommendation, we will give parents the right to instruct their child to wear a face covering should they want to. Parents should note, however, that children should be competent at removing/putting on the face mask, at lunchtime for instance, as staff will not assist with this.

Parents should also take note of government advice which states *"Face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission."*

The school will Provide PPE to staff. This will be left to individual staff members to decide if they wish to use it but please prepare your child for the fact their allocated adults may choose to use PPE throughout the school day.

### **Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)**

Whilst we will do everything we can to support children with Special Educational Needs, there is an expectation that they will be able to understand and closely follow the guidance. In particular, those who have had 1:1 or small group support should know that whilst there may be scope for this to continue, the same social distancing rules will apply. Should any pupil be unable to adhere to this, we will ask that the pupil be educated off site.

### **Behaviour Policy**

The new measures will be explained clearly to pupils who attend school. We ask that you remind them of the rules on a regular basis too. Pupils who are unable to adhere to the guidance or who present behavioural issues (e.g. spitting) will be instructed by a member of the school's leadership team to stay at home. Our behaviour policy will be amended to reflect these changes.

### **Toileting**

School staff will not assist with toileting under any circumstances. You should ensure that your child can go to the toilet independently before making a decision to send them to school.

### **First Aid**

School staff will be provided with special equipment for administering first aid or dispensing medication. This will include gloves, apron, mask and face shield. This is due to the likelihood that close contact with a child will be necessary.

If your child shows symptoms of COVID-19 whilst in school, they will be looked after by school staff in a separate room. We will contact you and you will have to collect your child immediately. Your household will have to isolate and request testing as per government guidance.

### Safeguarding

The school will continue to follow the Safeguarding Policy which can be found on the school website. Provision will be made for children to report any concerns to a Designated Safeguarding Leader (DSL).

### Cleaning

The school will adhere to stringent hygiene measures: regular washing of hands- as they arrive at school, before and after using outdoor equipment, before and after eating. In order to limit the potential spread of the virus, all soft furnishings will be removed from classrooms as well as any resources which are likely to be difficult to keep clean during the school day. This means there will be no dressing up clothes, teddies, puppets, sand, water, play dough etc. A limited number of reading books may be available that will be replaced each day. At the end of each day all classrooms surfaces /resources will be cleaned but on Friday afternoon every week a more thorough deep clean of all classrooms/resources will take place so school will close from 12.30pm (tbc)

### Working within capacity

We have asked for you to inform us if you require a place for your child in Reception/nursery, Yr 1 and Yr 6 as well as if you are classed as a keyworker/vulnerable family. **Key worker children (Yrs 2-5) should continue to only come to school on the days their parent is working. Please note if there is another adult who is able to care for your child at home then they should do so**

Should the numbers increase we have to prioritise groups who will be asked not to come to school after all. Guidance states that the school should continue to provide childcare for:

Priority 1 vulnerable pupils and pupils whose parents are critical workers.

Priority 2 are Reception/Nursery

Priority 3 Yr 1

Priority 4 Yr 6

Should requests for places increase above 90 (in priority groups 1-3) then the Yr 6 cohort will no longer be able to attend, further increases would result in Yr 1 no longer attending etc.

### Support for children not attending school

Any parents who feel that they do not want to send their child back to school under these circumstances should be assured that **they will not incur any penalties**. There will be a team of dedicated staff on hand in school to support any home learning arrangements and to support parents of children in other year groups for which school remains closed.

## **Summary**

Clearly, having read this plan, you will have concluded that our approach to opening school is very cautious. Whilst evidence points to the fact that the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people is generally mild, there has been no evidence presented yet which indicates children cannot transmit this virus between each other or to adults. Our cautious approach reflects the importance we place on the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, staff and you - our school families.

**If it is confirmed schools may move to a phased reopening then the following timescales will apply:**

**Mon 1<sup>st</sup> June-** school opens for Priority Group 1 only at 8.55am (please make sure you have booked a place for the days you require) Keyworker children only from Yrs 2,3,4,5- see below for Yrs Reception, 1 and 6)

**Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> June-**school opens for Reception/Nursery at 9.10am (including key worker children in Reception)

**Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> June-**school reopens for Yr 6 at 9.30am (including Key worker children in Yr 6)

**Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> June-**school opens for Yr 1 at 9.30am (including key worker children in Yr 1)