

## **St Laurence Church Infant School Plan for the Reopening of School to More Children - Summer Term 2020**

This document sets out our plans for the careful and cautious reopening of St Laurence Church Infant School during the Summer term 2020.

We are all currently living through an international health emergency, a once in a generation event. The world's understanding and our Government's response, to COVID-19 is evolving on an almost daily basis. It is therefore, highly likely that there will be necessary changes and response and our plans will need to be adjusted accordingly.

**Section A** The principles which underpin and inform decisions regarding the reopening of St Laurence Church Infant School and operational decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Section B** A description of our three Phases.

**Section C** Further details - questions and answers.

### **Section A**

#### **A set of principles for the reopening and operation of St Laurence Church Infant School to more pupils**

We have created a set of principles that will support St Laurence Church Infant School in deciding how we reopen and operate during this current COVID-19 pandemic.

These principles have been decided in consultation with staff and governors, and with reference to guidance documents from Public Health England, the Department for Education and our Local Authority.

- We will be mindful of Public Health England guidance.
- School must be a safe place. All decisions carry a certain degree of risk but risks must be minimised. Detailed risk assessments will be carried out.
- Our community must also be reassured that school is safe. We will be open and transparent in order to build confidence and maintain trust. Parents must feel it is a safe place to send their children, children must feel school is a safe environment in which to learn and staff must feel it is a safe place in which to work.

- School is not just a place for children. We will consult with and consider the needs of all staff.
- We will be mindful of the safety and mental, emotional and physical wellbeing of our children, their families and our staff.
- We aim to create and maintain a culture of vigilance. Practices will be closely monitored and adjusted, if and when required.
- We recognise that lockdown has caused the loss of routine, structure, friendship, opportunity and freedom. We aim to support the mental health and well-being of our children. We will modify our curriculum and teaching and learning practices to reflect this aim.
- The reopening and returning to 'normal' school life will take time and it will be carefully planned and managed. It cannot and will not be decided by arbitrary dates.
- We will consider the needs of different groups of children and individual children and will prioritise these children where we feel this is appropriate.
- We will plan for changes that are sustainable for the medium and longer term, and are as supportive as possible for children and families, whilst being manageable for school.
- Our plans will adhere to the principles laid out in this document.
- We will maintain a flexible and adaptable approach, responsive to the changing needs of our school, our local and our national community. We will be mindful of ongoing government guidelines and legislation.
- The careful and phased reopening of St Laurence Church Infant School will focus on supporting children to learn, to stay safe and to enjoy being back with friends and their teachers.
- We aim to ensure consistency of provision wherever possible. We believe this will best serve children's return to school.

- Relationships are at the heart of school life. At St Laurence Church Infant School we believe we know and value every child and that although they undoubtedly know their classroom staff best, every single member of the teaching staff is known to them and has the skill to ensure they feel cared for, that their feelings are acknowledged and that their wellbeing is a priority.
- Families will be encouraged and supported to send their children back to school when the time is right. The ultimate decision rests with the parents/carers and they will not be penalised if they choose not to send their children back to school at this time.
- We recognise that we are privileged to have such strong and supportive home-school relationships. Our decisions will be made in the belief that our parents will support us and will understand the decisions we have made. And follow the safety guidelines we have put in place.

## Section B

<b>Phase 1</b>	<b>Phase 2</b>	<b>Phase 3</b>
<p><b>Full lockdown</b> School Closure The Government asks all schools to close. The Government may ask schools to provide childcare support for a very small group of children <i>e.g. vulnerable children or children whose parents are key workers.</i> St Laurence Church Infant School closes for schooling (lessons) for all pupils. St Laurence Church Infant School provides childcare based on guidance from Government.</p>	<p><b>Partial lockdown</b> The Government asks schools to begin to reopen for certain groups of children. This may be for particular year groups, particular groups of children in different year groups, or for all children returning in small groups. Phase 2 is the most challenging for any school to manage and it is highly likely that schools will take different approaches to reflect their individual circumstances. It is important to note that Phase 2 is very fluid</p>	<p><b>No lockdown</b> The Government asks all schools to return to normal, no restrictions are required. St Laurence Church Infant School will follow guidance sent by the government, but will act with due regard to our school context and any further reopening will take place only when it is safe to do so.</p>

	<p>and procedures and practices may change to reflect changing priorities and needs, both nationally and locally.</p> <p>When making reopening/closure and operational decisions within Phase 2, St Laurence Church Infant School will follow the principles outlined in this document.</p>	
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## Section C

### FURTHER DETAILS - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

This final section of our document is a question and answer section - questions and answers are in no particular order.

**Is it now safe to send children back to school?**

**Can school guarantee that children, or a member of staff, will not be infected by COVID-19 if they return to school?**

No, we cannot guarantee this. We are putting measures in place to minimise the risk and we will only reopen school if we believe it is safe. One of our principles for reopening states - 'School must be a safe place. All decisions carry a certain degree of risk but risks must be minimised. Detailed risk assessments will be carried out.'

**How will school ensure there is social distancing? Will school maintain a 2m distance rule at all times?**

We know that social distancing is fundamental if we wish to reduce transmission and keep the R number below 1. The guidance we have received from the Government says:

*'We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years (Reception) and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account. We should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures set out below:*

- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- regular cleaning of settings
- minimising contact and mixing

*It is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, and we can achieve that and reduce transmission risk by ensuring children, young people and staff where possible, only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group stays away from other people and groups.*

*Public Health England (PHE) is clear that if early years settings, schools and colleges do this, and crucially if they are also applying regular hand cleaning, hygiene and cleaning measures and handling potential cases of the virus as per the advice, then the risk of transmission will be lowered.'*

*www.GOV.UK publication - Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings. 11th May 2020.*

### **How will rooms be organised to maximise social distance?**

We have put measures in place to distance children but we cannot guarantee that children will remain 2m apart from each other and staff when in school. Children will be a group of no more than 15. They will not mix with any other groups and there will be the same adults working with the group. These groups will act like a bubble to separate the children and adults within the group from others.

### **Will children share classroom resources?**

The resources that children will be using will be kept within their classroom and outside space. They will be washed and wiped down frequently. The children will wash their hands frequently. Children will not be permitted to bring any resources from home. Nor will we send any learning materials home. Water will be available throughout the day. Children may bring a water bottle with them. This must be taken home and thoroughly cleaned each evening.

### **What hygiene practices will be in place?**

Children and staff will be required to wash their hands when they arrive in school, a member of staff will supervise children's handwashing. Children and staff will be required to wash their hands every time they exit or enter their classroom and at regular times throughout the day. Visitors will only be allowed onto the school site by prior appointment. They will be required to wash their hands on entering the main school building. No-one arriving at school with symptoms will be allowed into school: they will be asked to leave site immediately. In regard to respiratory hygiene the children will be taught: *Catch it! Bin it! Kill it!* Each classroom will have an enclosed bin for tissues, paper

towels and wipes. This will be emptied and cleaned during and at the end of the day.

### **What cleaning practices will be in place?**

Additional cleaning will take place throughout all sessions. To reduce the risk of transmission a clean will take place of classroom furniture and surfaces; all touch surfaces and all equipment children will have been in contact with and toilets. A thorough clean will take place at the end of the day.

### **Are toilets a place where transmission can easily spread?**

We recognise that different groups of children using the same toilets pose an increased risk of transmission between different groups of children. Therefore, each group will have their own designated toilet. Toilets will be cleaned throughout the session. Toilets will be cleaned thoroughly and at the end of the school day.

### **Will school staff wear personal protective equipment?**

We will strictly adhere to Government advice concerning PPE. The current advice ([www.GOV.UK](http://www.GOV.UK) publication - *Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings. 11th May 2020*) is that the majority of staff in education settings do not require PPE. The guidance does list a very small number of cases where Public Health England believes PPE would be appropriate. PPE will be worn in certain cases such as sickness or when administering of First Aid.

### **Will staff be wearing facemasks? Will children be allowed to wear facemasks in school?**

The Government has not recommended wearing a face covering or facemask in schools, or other education setting. Children should not wear a face mask or covering in school.

Staff will wear a facemask, visor, apron and gloves when they are dealing with children who are sick and whilst they are administering first aid.

### **What will happen if a child or an adult begins to display symptoms?**

We will strictly adhere to the guidance from Public Health England (PHE). If anyone becomes unwell with a new continuous cough, a high temperature or loss of smell and taste, they will be sent home and advised to follow PHE guidance - COVID-19 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>).

Where a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to the school foyer where they will be isolated. If they need to go to the toilet while waiting to be

collected they will use the visitor toilet. This will then be cleaned and disinfected before being used by anyone else.

If the child requires personal care, staff will wear personal protective equipment (mask, gloves, apron, and visor.)

Children will be taken to their parent at the school gate so that they can go home. Staff will be sent home if they display any symptoms and instructed to access a test.

### **Will the member of staff who has helped a child who is displaying symptoms also have to go home?**

No, the current guidance (Coronavirus COVID-19: Implementing protective measures in education and child care settings, 11th May 2020) states that staff do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves or the child subsequently tests positive.

### **What will happen if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school?**

When a child or staff member, develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home and asked to isolate for 14 days. We will advise all fellow household members to self-isolate for 14 days.

We will encourage all staff and children who are displaying symptoms to be tested. Where the child or staff member tests negative they can return to school and their fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child or staff member tests positive the rest of their bubble will be sent home to self-isolate for 14 days.

### **Will staff be expected to administer first aid?**

Yes, if they hold a First Aid certificate. Before administering first aid, they must put their mask, gloves, apron and visor on. Children with an inhaler will keep it with them at all times.

### **What will happen when children arrive in school?**

Children will line up on the marked social distancing areas outside their classroom; they will enter and the first thing they will do is wash their hands. They must arrive at their allocated time to allow social distancing by the adults bringing them to school.

### **Will school be checking children's temperature at the start of each day?**

No, we will not be checking children's temperature. Government guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>) states that routine testing of a child's temperature is not a reliable method for identifying coronavirus.

### **What time will children attend school?**

The children will attend for a school day. The arrival and going home times will be staggered to ensure that social distancing can be maintained outside the school gates and on the school site.

### **What will the drop-off arrangements be at the start of each day?**

Parents will enter the school site from Heath Road South at the start and end of the day. The start and end times of each group's school day will be staggered so as to avoid congestion and to encourage social distancing. Parents will exit the site through the Bunbury Road exit.

Children will be allowed into the school one at a time. For all Reception children they will enter straight into their allocated classroom.

At the end of their day, children will be dismissed to their parents one at a time.

Children will not be permitted into school until it is their allocated time. Late children will not be permitted to enter the school until the next group has been let in. Parents will be expected to wait with their child until the next group has entered school.

### **Will, parents be able to talk to teachers at the beginning or end of their session?**

No, parents are not allowed into school. A member of SLT will be on the playground at the beginning and end of each day. Messages will be relayed to teachers, if necessary. Parents can email or call the school office by phone.

Teachers will be able to make calls to parents after the school day finishes but are being encouraged to leave the site sooner than usual to allow a thorough clean to take place. They will send email replies through the school enquiry account. A text message may also be sent to parents.

### **What will happen about school meals?**

School meals will be available for all children attending school. Children may bring a packed lunch.

### **Will children be expected to wear school uniform?**

No, children should wear clothes that are suitable for outdoor learning, PE and classroom work. They should wear clean clothes every day.

### **Will staff be expected to work with children they were not working with before lockdown?**

Primary teachers are trained to teach in any year group; to this end staff will be delegated as appropriate.

Teaching Assistants will be assigned to a class as required. Teaching Assistants may be asked to lead a bubble or support individual children. This will be under the direction of a class teacher. Teaching Assistants will also undertake additional cleaning and make telephone calls to families whose children are not in school.

### **How many children will there be in each bubble?**

We have planned for a maximum of 15 children in each bubble; this is dependent upon the space available and the ability to organise the class.

### **Will parents be able to request a change of bubble for their child?**

No, once bubbles are allocated, they will not change.

### **How will school allocate each child a schooling group?**

The classteachers will allocate children to bubbles dependent upon their knowledge of the children.

### **Why do children need to stay in the same group? Why can they not change groups?**

This is to minimise transmission between groups of different children.

### **What will happen if a teacher is absent from school?**

If a bubble lead is absent from school we may have to close the bubble until they return. We will not move a member of staff from a different bubble to cover an absent colleague; this is to reduce the risk of transmission between groups. We would not call in an agency teacher to cover.

### **What will the curriculum look like? What will be taught during schooling?**

The curriculum will be different from our normal curriculum but will be based on the National Curriculum with a particular emphasis on PSED, Physical activity, outdoor learning and reading.

### **Will there be daily collective worship?**

There will be no gathering in the school hall for any form of assembly but daily collective worship will happen in each classroom.

### **Will there be PE lessons?**

Yes. Lessons will be planned to ensure children have minimal physical contact with each other.

### **Will there be break times?**

Each bubble will be given a designated time when they can take a break in one of the marked playground zones. While the children are outside their teacher will take a short break while they are supervised by another adult.

### **Will there be changes to school policies during the phased return of children to school?**

Yes, The Behaviour Policy will be changed to reflect government guidelines. The children will be expected to follow new rules to stay safe during this time. The Safeguarding Policy will be changed to reflect the current situation. The Fire evacuation procedure will be adapted. All other policies are currently under review and will reflect the new way of working.

### **Will vulnerable children and the children of key workers still be attending school?**

Yes. There will be three groups of vulnerable and key workers' children with a maximum of 15 children in each group. These groups will follow the same principles as the Reception groups. They will follow a curriculum appropriate for their age.

### **Are there changes to Breakfast and After School Club provision?**

We will continue to offer before and after school care for vulnerable children and for children of key workers only in line with national guidance. If Reception children attend Breakfast and After School Club they will not be able to join a schooling group; this is to avoid transmission between groups of children.

### **Is St Laurence Church Infant School's plan different to other schools?**

We are aware that different schools are considering different models and are preparing different plans for when they reopen. We have been talking with local schools to understand their thinking. Each school is preparing a plan which they believe is right for their school based on their school circumstances. It would be unfeasible to have one plan which can be rolled out across the country, or indeed across a local area.