

All Hallows Catholic High School

Guidance for Full School Reopening

September 2020

Welcome from the Headteacher

Dear Parent / Carer,

Firstly, we would like to thank you for your support and understanding during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. When we wrote to you before the summer holidays, we explained that we would be reopening fully for all pupils in September, in line with government advice.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our pupils back to school. We understand that many of our pupils and you, their parents, may be anxious about the return to school. You will certainly have a lot of questions about how everything will work. This guide is intended to allay any concerns and answer any questions you may have so that you and your child can feel confident about the safe reopening of school and look forward with excitement to the new term and all the opportunities ahead.

In conjunction with this written guidance, we have produced a video of the school site to enable you and your child to view the physical changes we have made to the site and to better understand the systems which will operate in September. Please follow the link below to access our health and safety film. https://youtu.be/NG4gzyfzj6w As I have explained in previous communications we are staggering the start to the term to enable us to ensure that we can welcome all of our pupils to school in a safe, calm and orderly manner.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, you can contact us on enquiries@allhallows.lancs.sch

We look forward to welcoming your child back to school.

Kind regards,

Chris Horrocks Headteacher

When will school reopen for my child?

In line with the government's direction and following careful planning and a robust risk assessment process, we will be welcoming back pupils in Years 7, 10 and 11 on **Thursday 3rd September** and Years 8 and 9 on **Friday 4th September**. All year groups should attend on **Friday 4th September**. Please be assured that pupils will spend time with their form teachers upon their return, receiving detailed information and guidance on both the systems which will operate in school in the autumn term and the format that their learning will take.

From the dates listed above, your child will attend school every day, in line with term dates as published on the school website.

What steps has the school taken to ensure it can reopen safely for all pupils?

Risk assessment

The school has conducted a thorough risk assessment to mitigate the risks of opening fully during the coronavirus pandemic. Our risk assessment covers various aspects of the school premises, cleaning, staff availability, infection control and social distancing protocols, mental health and wellbeing, access to learning, and fire safety.

The risk assessment is a live document and will be updated as required. A copy of this document is available upon request.

What systems will be in place to reduce the risk of infection?

Cleaning Regimes

An enhanced cleaning programme is in place for the autumn term. This will ensure that all areas of school are cleaned thoroughly after each school day. Members of our cleaning staff will clean high contact items and areas such as door handles, hand rails and toilets more frequently throughout the school day. The division of the school into zones for year group 'bubbles' ensures that the risk of cross-contamination between year groups is significantly reduced. Any facilities which will be used by more than one year group, as permitted by government guidance, such as dining spaces and some specialist rooms, will be cleaned between use by different year groups.

Respiratory and Hand Hygiene Regimes

Pupils will be expected to practise good respiratory and hand hygiene. This message will be regularly reinforced with pupils by teachers and through signage around school.

Tissues will be readily available in classrooms, as will lidded bins and hand sanitiser. Pupils will be actively encouraged to sanitise or wash their hands upon arriving at and leaving school and at the start and end of recreation times. Hand wash stations have been installed in each year group zone.

Our large pupil numbers make handwashing on arrival difficult, so to avoid congestion, pupils will be able to use hand sanitiser dispensers which have been installed at designated year group entrances or inside every classroom.



Social Distancing

In preparation for the reopening, school has been divided into zones so that year groups can be kept in separate 'bubbles' during the school day. Each year group 'bubble' has a designated entrance / exit, classroom areas, dining area, toilets and allocated indoor and outdoor recreational spaces. On the first day of school, all pupils will be made aware of which zone they will be taught in, which dining room they must use, which recreational area they have been allocated and how to move safely when they are required to do so.

Please rest assured that zones and routes will be clearly marked out for year groups. Care will be taken in any instances where pupils need to pass through another year group's zone. External routes will be divided using barriers. Where passage through an internal space is required this will happen at a time when other pupils are not circulating, there will be staff supervision and door handles etc. will be cleaned afterwards. Please follow the link to our video walkthrough which demonstrates routines and routes.

Current advice from the government states that pupils do not need to maintain social distancing **within** year group bubbles. The advice suggests that it is beneficial for pupils to be seated side by side in classroom areas, however, and so classrooms have been organised to accommodate this as far as possible. Adults are required to maintain a 2-metre distance from pupils. Again, classrooms have been arranged to allow for this. To reduce the possibility of transmission of C19, the curriculum has been structured to limit, **where possible**, the number of classes with which each teacher interacts, and the number of times pupils will have to move

during the school day. Further information about this is given in 'What will learning look like?' later in this document.

What will happen if my child becomes unwell at school?

If a child becomes unwell with possible symptoms of C19, a member of staff will escort the pupil to a designated area of the school, where he / she will be isolated from the general school population. Where other pupils, who are also unwell with possible C19 symptoms and who may be from other year groups are also isolated, strict social distancing will be observed. Pupils will be supervised, and the school's Senior Leadership Team will be notified. You, or your designated emergency contact, will then be contacted to come to collect your child. It is imperative that we have up to date contact numbers for at least two parents / carers or designated contacts. If there have been any changes to contact details, please notify us immediately via email to enquiries@allhallows.lancs.sch.uk or via your child's Year Manager.

How do I access testing for C19?

If your child develops possible C19 symptoms at home, please DO NOT send him / her to school under any circumstances. Symptoms are identified as a new continuous cough, high temperature and loss of sense of taste and/or smell.



What are the current guidelines for self-isolating if my child or other family members develop symptoms of C19?

Anyone who develops possible C19 symptoms should self-isolate for 10 days, and family members or people with whom they have been in close contact for 14 days. Anyone who has symptoms is eligible for free testing, which should be carried out within the first three or four days of symptoms developing. Further information can be found by following this link:

Advice about self isolating & getting a C19 test

You must notify us immediately if someone in your household tests positive for C19. If your child has been sent home with suspected C19 DO NOT send them back to school within 10 days unless they have tested negative for C19. If someone else in the family develops C19 do not send your child into school for 14 days.

What will the school do if there are confirmed cases of coronavirus among pupils or staff?

Government guidelines for schools about what to do when there are confirmed cases of C19 within the school community are very clear. School will follow these guidelines precisely and immediately should any case/s be confirmed. Senior leaders have been trained in this regard and the school will liaise with the appropriate government bodies to ensure the safety of the wider school community.

How will the school continue to safeguard my child?

As at any other time, the safeguarding of pupils remains the school's first priority. All staff receive regular safeguarding training and the school has designated leaders with specific responsibility for safeguarding: Mrs Washington and Mr Thomas. School staff will receive updated statutory safeguarding training during our staff training days on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September. The school's safeguarding policy has been updated in the light of the pandemic and can be accessed using this link: <u>Safeguarding-CV19.pdf</u>

How will the school day be organised?

Please read the document attached entitled 'Revised school day' in conjunction with the information in this section.

We would actively discourage the arrival of pupils on site before 8.30 am to assist school staff in maintaining social distancing. If your child does arrive before 8.30 am he / she will have to wait in the recreational space allocated to his or her year group. Pupils from different year groups will not be permitted to mix and take shelter together under the covered walkways. At 8.30 am all pupils will be directed by staff on duty to their form room, through dedicated year group entrances, where they will be greeted by their form teacher.

The end of the school day will be slightly staggered. Pupils will be dismissed a year group at a time, every few minutes from 2.55 pm onwards. The order for dismissal will be determined by the proximity of the year zone to the buses. This arrangement is to reduce congestion when boarding school buses or moving to parental collection points in the vicinity of the school.

How will social time work?

Recreation Spaces

Please read this section in conjunction with the attached document 'Revised school day'.

Pupils will have a break of 15 minutes during the morning and a 50-minute lunch break, as usual. In order to maintain strict social distancing and to preserve year group 'bubbles' at lunchtime we have staggered the times at which year groups will have their lunch. Mr McMullen has revised the timings of the day to create period 4A and 4B. During period 4A Year 8 will take lunch in the junior dining room and Year 10 in the senior dining room (Years 7, 9 and 11 will remain in their classes). During period 4B, Year 7 will have their lunches delivered into their teaching room, Year 9 will take lunch in the junior dining room and Year 11 in the senior dining room (Years 8 and 10 will be in class at this time). All year groups, once they have finished eating, will be permitted to access their allocated recreational spaces to get some fresh air.

Pupils will be discouraged from making physical contact with each other during social time and should not engage in shouting or singing, as this is believed to increase the risk of transmission of the virus, via droplets or aerosols. In line with the restrictions which will apply to PE activities, pupils will not be permitted to participate in contact sports during break and lunch.

Catering

The thumb print technology we introduced last academic year to enable pupils to pay for food will not be in use during the autumn term due to the increased risk presented by the use of a 'touch contact' payment system. The school has purchased an additional technical package for its online ParentPay system which will allow parents to pre-order food for their child. Parents must access the limited menu choices by Friday the week before that in which the lunch will be required, so that orders can be processed in advance of that following week. The kitchen staff will prepare 'grab bags' which will be clearly labelled for each child. This in turn will allow for the safe distribution of food to our pupils, reducing the possibility of close contact. Please note that our kitchen staff will be wearing protective visors and that the dining rooms will be cleaned between year group sittings. Pupils entitled to free school meals will be provided with a pre-ordered grab bag of their choice. Alternatively, pupils may bring a packed lunch to school from home. Our system will be operational from Monday 7th September so it will be necessary for pupils to bring a packed lunch on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September. Additional information about the system for ordering lunches will be sent to you in the week commencing 31st August, in good time to enable you to place your child's order for the week commencing 7th September.

Please note, also, that catering facilities will not be available each break time as providing this service would make it impossible to keep year group 'bubbles' apart. Pupils may wish to bring their own snacks to school to consume at break time.

Government guidance dictates that pupils should be discouraged from stopping off on their journey to school to purchase lunch since this creates a significant risk of increased community transmission. Local retailers and supermarkets should be aware of this guidance.

Access to drinking water

There will be access to drinking water via the school's water fountains and water stations in year group zones. All pupils should ensure that they bring a reusable bottle to school to fill up at break and lunch time ONLY. Pupils will not be allowed to leave classrooms during lesson time to fill water bottles.

Toilets

There are designated toilets in each year group zone. Pupils will not be allowed to enter toilets in groups. Duty staff will be on hand to supervise pupils and the school's CCTV system will enable us to monitor the corridor areas outside of toilets to ensure this rule is enforced. Toilets can only be used during break and lunch times.

If your son / daughter has a medical condition which means that he / she needs more regular access to toilet facilities, please contact your child's Year Manager to request a toilet pass. Please be aware that any visits to the toilets during lesson time will need to be under escort by a member of staff.

What will learning look like?

Please read this section in conjunction with the documents attached entitled 'New rooming arrangements from September 2020' and 'Classes in option groups'.

In order to reduce pupil movement around school and support provision in year group zones, we have allocated the junior building to years 7, 8 and 9, and Years 10 and 11 will be located predominantly in the senior building. To maintain a broad curriculum for our KS4 pupils, we will allow a small number of pupils to transit through the junior building to access specialist teaching areas such as Art. The movement of those pupils will be carefully managed.

Pupils in Year 7, because they will begin at All Hallows with no KS2 SATs results, will be arranged in mixed ability form groups, which will also be their teaching groups. They will be located in the rooms listed on the accompanying sheet and teachers will move to them to deliver the full range of subjects. However, they will move out of their zone to access PE lessons only.

Pupils in Years 8 and 9 will start their school day in their form classes but will move to their allocated teaching room on the first bell at 9 am. Their teaching groups have been arranged on ability and they will remain static in one allocated room for the delivery of each subject. Subject teachers will rotate to the pupils' teaching rooms. Again, this will be with the exception of PE classes.

Pupils in Years 10 and 11 will follow a curriculum which we have designed to enable them to be taught in ability groups for the core subjects and to access all of their option subjects. In order to preserve the KS4 curriculum we have put in place a number of mitigations to ensure the safety of staff and pupils. These include, enhanced cleaning, rearrangement of classroom lay outs and carefully controlled movement around the senior building.

To minimise the risk of transmission, teachers will maintain 2-metre social distancing as per the government guidelines, and the number of year groups with which each teacher is associated has been limited **where possible**. In most cases, it has still been possible to maintain specialist teaching. Pupils will access the full curriculum, experiencing teaching in all their subjects.

The curriculum has been carefully revised by Heads of department and teaching staff to ensure that the sequence of subjects taught is the most appropriate for pupils following a long period of remote learning. As close proximity between teachers and pupils is not permissible, this means that there may still be some continued reliance on online learning platforms to deliver aspects of the curriculum both in school and through homework tasks. This will serve to ensure continuity with learning which took place during the period of school closure and enable us to make a smooth transition back to remote learning should further periods of school closure be announced.

The review of the curriculum, along with the need for social distancing and infection control measures will result in some limitations to areas such as design technology, food technology, art and science experiments at KS3. Some activities are prohibited or subject to significant restrictions, such as indoor PE and many activities in performing arts and music. Where specialist teaching areas are not available to groups of pupils, their teachers will move to them to deliver the adapted curriculum for that particular subject.

It is understandable that many pupils, and their parents, may be anxious about the return to school and concerned about the impact that such a long period of closure may have had on pupils. At All Hallows, we want to maintain a positive focus on the many skills in independent learning and self-regulation that our pupils have developed during 'lockdown'. Teaching and learning will be delivered in such a way as to maximise pupils' confidence and build upon these skills so that pupils can move forward positively in their learning. This will be coupled with thorough and sensitive evaluation of pupils' learning and understanding so that targeted support can be made available where it is needed. Teachers are encouraged to use an evidence-based approach and to plan together extensively, maintaining a positive focus on what pupils CAN DO and DO KNOW, incorporating empathy and supportive language for learning.

In some cases, and where it is appropriate, teachers will be actively encouraged to set work which can be completed electronically to reduce the need to handle exercise books and paper copies of work. Where this is not possible, protocols will be in place to ensure the safe exchange of work between pupils and teachers. Parents should be aware that in some cases this may impact upon turnaround time for the marking of pupils' work.

How will pupils with SEND be supported?

Social distancing measures mean that learning support cannot be delivered in the traditional way, with pupils working side by side with a teacher or support assistant. Fortunately, our teachers and teaching assistants are well placed to use their experience and creativity to provide support (including remotely where appropriate) to our most vulnerable pupils. Mrs Melling, supported by Mrs Cooper, will provide additional support and further training to the SEND team to facilitate its effective deployment.

How will PE lessons be organised?

All year groups will have access to PE lessons, all of which will take place outdoors whenever possible. Lessons will be planned in accordance with the sports and activities permitted under government guidelines and in line with social distancing regulations where applicable. Appropriate systems and protocols will ensure the safe use of equipment (rotation of resources and / or cleaning between use by different year groups). Changing facilities cannot be used under government guidance. For this reason, pupils will be permitted to take off items of their school uniform, as directed by members of the PE department, in order to feel more comfortable when taking part in activities. Pupils may bring their PE top or PE sweatshirt to wear over their school shirt / blouse should the weather be cold. Pupils **must** bring their trainers to school on the days on which they have PE (normal sanctions will apply to those pupils who do not come equipped for their PE lessons).

What are the expectations regarding school uniform?

In keeping with government guidance, pupils should return to school in September in full school uniform. There had initially been some concern about this, as earlier advice issued suggested that uniform should be washed after each visit to school. This is no longer the government's advice. More is now known about the virus and it is not thought to survive well on fabrics. A normal cleaning routine for uniform is now considered to be safe. For example, parents may decide to wash underwear, socks and shirts each day while skirts, jumpers and trousers may be washed every two to three days and blazers and ties weekly or fortnightly according to need.

What should my child bring to school?

During the pandemic, it is particularly important that individual pupils come to school properly equipped for all their lessons, since stationery and other school resources should not be shared. Please consult the uniform and equipment list provided on the school website to ensure that your child has everything he / she needs. Due to the need to preserve year group 'bubbles', pupils will not have access to lockers during the autumn term so it will be doubly important that pupils try to organise themselves and their equipment the night before the next school day.

What use, if any, will the school make of PPE?

Each year group zone will have access to a supply of PPE. Staff may make use of this when supervising pupils with suspected symptoms of C19 for prolonged periods of time, and / or if they administer care to a pupil which requires them to work at closer range than that advised by social distancing guidelines. Such instances are likely to be rare. A member of staff may choose to don PPE to administer first aid to a pupil. This would depend, of course, on whether the first aid was required in an emergency situation. If the time taken in donning PPE could place a pupil at further risk, the adult concerned would use their professional judgement to consider how best to protect the pupil's welfare.

Face coverings

Initial government guidance in July stated that the wearing of face coverings in school settings was <u>not</u> recommended. You will be aware, however, that this has been the subject of some debate currently. On Tuesday 25th August the government announced that it recommends the wearing of face coverings in corridors and open spaces for those schools which are located in areas of high incidences of C-19 and which are subject to additional restrictions.

Our school is not located in a 'high risk' area, therefore we are not currently making the wearing of face coverings compulsory in our corridors and open spaces. If pupils and staff feel more comfortable wearing a face covering then this can be done, but on a voluntary basis. Anybody wearing a face mask for these short periods of time must remain mindful of the need to safely store it if it is reusable or to safely dispose of it if it is a throwaway version. We will continue to monitor the guidance on the use of face masks and will inform you of any updates to our policy should that be necessary.

It is recommended that pupils over the age of 11 wear face coverings on dedicated school transport and it is compulsory for them to be worn on wider public transport. Please see 'What is the current guidance on getting to and from school?' for further information about this.

How will shared resources be managed?

In some subject areas, the sharing of specialist equipment and teaching spaces between year groups will be unavoidable. Where this is the case, specialist staff are aware of and will adhere to government guidance relating to the rotation / cleaning of equipment to ensure that any risk of contact transmission is kept to a minimum.

What is the current advice about getting to and from school?

Please read this section in conjunction with the information from LCC sent home by Mrs Washington on Thursday 20th August. A copy of the letter can be found by clicking <u>here</u>. The transport guidance document can be accessed by clicking <u>here</u>.

Government advice is that public transport should be avoided as far as possible. Wherever pupils can, they should walk or cycle to school. If you intend to drive your child to school, you should arrange to drop off and collect him / her at an agreed point in the vicinity of school, rather than at a place immediately adjacent to school. This is to reduce congestion and the associated risk of increased community transmission from parents and carers congregating together at the school gates. Please do not pull up in your car on Crabtree Avenue or the school's turning circle in the morning or at the end of the school day.

It may not be possible for your child to get to school without using public transport. It is important to remember that there is a distinction between dedicated school transport and wider public transport.

On dedicated school transport social distancing will not apply from the autumn term. All Hallows pupils will, however, be advised to sit in their year group bubbles on the bus, but only if this is possible. It is now the law that children and young people aged 11 years and over must wear a face covering on public transport. This law does not apply to dedicated school transport. However, national government guidance states that local authorities recommend that people aged 11 years and over wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary school or college from the start of the autumn term. Exceptions can be made where certain medical conditions make it difficult for a young person to wear a face covering. A face covering is a covering of any type which covers your nose and mouth. Reusable or single-use face coverings are available for parents and carers to buy. A scarf, bandana, religious garment or hand-made cloth covering may also be used but these must securely fit round the side of the face.

A clean face covering should be worn on each journey. Reusable face coverings should be stored appropriately in plastic bags until they can be washed. Non reusable face coverings should be disposed of appropriately on arrival to school. Lidded bins are available at each pupil entrance to facilitate the safe disposal of used masks. Pupils should sanitise their hands immediately after removing masks at the sanitising station in their year group zone.

It is imperative that you do not allow your child to board a school bus or use wider public transport if he / she has possible symptoms of C19. If your child becomes ill at school, he or she will have to be collected and will not be allowed to use dedicated school transport or wider public transport to make his / her journey home.

Further advice on traveling safely during the coronavirus pandemic can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers

How will attendance be monitored and managed?

Our usual procedures for monitoring and managing attendance will be in operation when school reopens. If your child is unwell, please contact us in accordance with the school's attendance policy. A copy of the policy can be found here. Attendance is compulsory for all pupils from September. Our usual systems and sanctions will apply. Your child will not be penalised for non-attendance where this is due to self-isolation. If you are concerned about your child returning to school, please contact his / her Year Manager or Mrs Washington for advice and support.

How will clinically vulnerable children be protected?

The government relaxed its shielding guidelines from 1 August 2020. If your child is classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, and has previously been advised to shield, you can now allow him / her to return to school.

An individual risk assessment is available to any pupil who has a current school health care plan. If this applies to your child, you should contact Mr Thomas or Mrs Melling about this. If any parent has questions or concerns about the medical vulnerability of their child, please contact Mr Thomas or your child's Year Manager.

What are the school's expectations around behaviour and how will behaviour be managed?

All the usual high expectations regarding behaviour will apply when we reopen in September. Maintaining a safe and productive learning environment is everybody's responsibility and pupils will be expected to play their part in keeping everyone safe. It is imperative that rules relating to social distancing, hygiene and safe conduct around school are adhered to. Deliberate breaches of any of the rules we have put in place to protect our community will be dealt with severely and the full range of sanctions will be applied as necessary.

Disruption of teaching and learning will not be tolerated, and pupils can be sanctioned for this, or for otherwise failing to co-operate with school staff in all of the usual ways. This can include isolation from class members and the loss of social time, as well as detentions and fixed term exclusions.

Equally, we will continue to praise and reward good work and positive community spirit in keeping with the ethos and Mission of our school. Pupils can be rewarded through the Rewards System as we would under normal circumstances.

We will continue to communicate both positive and negative behaviours with parents in a timely manner and will seek, as ever, to work closely with parents to support their children in developing positive behaviours and making a full contribution to the life of the school.

How will school support my child's mental health and well-being?

As already mentioned, we believe that many of our pupils have coped well with the lockdown period, both in terms of the independence they have shown in engaging with their learning and the resilience they have developed in the face of adversity. We intend to build rapidly upon the skills they have acquired. However, we are conscious of the fact that for some pupils the same period has left them feeling vulnerable and in need of support.

All Hallows is fortunate to have an expertly trained and experienced pastoral team dedicated to supporting the mental health and well-being of our children. We have a long history of delivering outstanding pastoral care and will be assessing the well-being of our pupils on their

return. Should you wish to talk to somebody about concerns you may have about the welfare of your child, please contact the relevant Year Manager, Mrs Washington or Mr Thomas.

What can I do to help?

Parents can best support the full reopening of school by:

- ensuring that pupils are not sent to school if they have symptoms of coronavirus
- complying with government guidance relating to self-isolation and following any instructions issued by the government's test and trace system
- reinforcing the messages regarding social distancing and relating to good respiratory and hand hygiene with their children
- ensuring each child comes to school each day in full school uniform and with the correct equipment
- adhering to guidance about transport to school, in particular dropping off and collecting children from an agreed point a short distance away from school
- Communicating effectively with us asking questions if they are unclear and informing us promptly of any concerns

What should I do if I have concerns or need further advice?

This guide is intended to answer any questions and alleviate any concerns you may have regarding the school's full reopening in September. If you have further questions, please contact us via enquiries@allhallows.lancs.sch.uk giving a brief outline of your enquiry to help us to direct your request and an appropriate member of staff will get in touch as soon as possible.