

Mount Carmel return to full school opening and delivery of the recovery curriculum

From 1 September 2021, we opened to all pupils following government guidelines, implemented according to the school risk assessment in order to educate all pupils, ensure they have the best possible care and keep staff and pupils as safe as reasonably possible during the ongoing pandemic

OVERALL SCHOOL AIM:

To continue to provide effective education and support for all pupils, onsite whenever possible, and additional effective remote support, if necessary, for families and pupils attending Mount Carmel RC High School during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

SCHOOL OUTCOMES:

1. To outline how the school will safely provide education and support for all pupils (using government criteria) – updated 17th August 2021
2. To outline how the school will continue to provide education and support if there are cases of COVID suspected or identified in pupils, their communities and / or staff
3. As of 1 September 2021, outline how the school will continue to provide the recovery curriculum for pupils who have fallen behind during the closure of school between March 2020 and September 2021
4. To clarify roles and responsibilities of staff at all levels
5. To ensure the logistics for on-site school provision is safe for all concerned and constantly updated in line with the latest DfE and school COVID-19 risk assessments

This school policy is based on the latest DfE guidance included in the school risk assessment.

This policy continues to be reviewed by senior leaders and governors based on latest COVID infection rates within school and the local community. The next planned review will be undertaken with changes for after end of September 2021.

Our Mission:

Mount Carmel is the Roman Catholic High School serving the people of Hyndburn. With Christ at the heart of our community, we believe in the worth and dignity of each individual. Our aim is to nurture their gifts and talents by providing a caring, challenging and stimulating environment in which effective teaching and learning takes place. We seek to encourage our pupils to witness Christ's teaching and to participate in building the Kingdom of God.

This mission is never more important than during this time of national emergency, when our pupils have experienced a lengthy gap in on site education resulting in potential gaps in education as well as potentially experiencing a negative effect to their mental and physical health. Many of our pupils are already disadvantaged and we must ensure that any gaps in knowledge are closed at the earliest opportunity. We also have a high proportion of pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. We will use information gathered at the end of the summer term when we met with pupils and their families in order to ensure they are supported on their return to school. It is important work we have been entrusted with and we will rise to the challenge.

This updated COVID-19 school policy should be read in conjunction with the most recent school risk assessment and ventilation survey.

1. How will Lateral Flow and PCR testing be used to ensure school and community infection rates are as low as reasonably achievable?

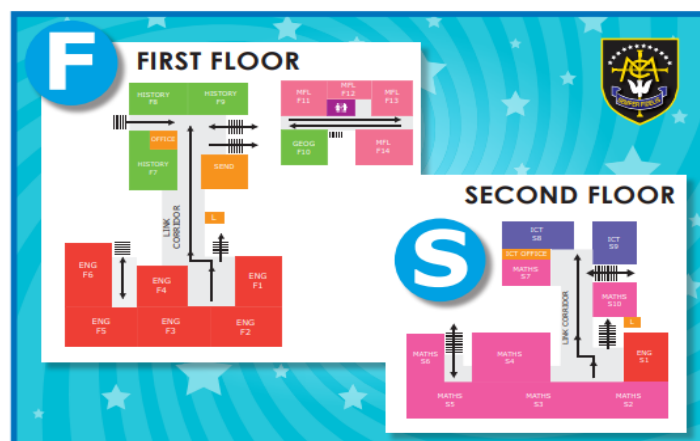
When school reopened after the summer to pupils on 1 September 2021, pupils were tested using LF tests on 2 occasions over the space of 3-5 days. These tests were supervised by school staff. After these tests had been carried out, pupils have been issued with enough LF kits to ensure they have enough testing kits to last until the end of September.

Pupils have been instructed that they should carry out the tests each Monday and Thursday morning before coming into school. The procedure for 'void' and 'positive' tests has previously been issued to families through a letter that is also available on the school website. A reminder text is sent to all parents each Sunday and Wednesday evening to remind them of the test.

Form tutors check with pupils each Monday and Thursday morning to ensure they have been tested. Pupils who have not been tested are reminded that they need to test before coming into school on the following day.

2. Will there be changes to the normal school routines to ensure transmission is minimalised?

The school has implemented a one-way system into operation around most of the school building. This is to ensure the flow of pupils around the building leads to less face-to-face contact. A map showing the one-way system is here -



Staff are ensuring their workspaces are ventilated as much as possible. This includes the use of air conditioning where possible and doors and windows being opened, when possible, to ensure a good flow of air. A ventilation survey has been completed by the school and the findings will be followed up to ensure the best available solution is implemented.

3. What extra hygiene measures will be in place to ensure minimal spread of the virus?

Most teachers in the school have their own classroom base. At the front of the classroom is a hygiene station with anti-viral wipes and alcohol sanitiser spray. Teachers will have the routine at the start of lessons of ensuring that the hands of each pupil have been sanitised. At the end of the lesson, desks are to be wiped down by the pupils. This will clean the desks and their hands. The sanitising stations will be restocked each evening by the cleaning team.

Toilets will be cleaned more regularly than 'normal' to ensure contaminants are reduced to a minimum.

Masks will be optional for pupils, members of staff and visitors anywhere on the school site.

Handwashing stations are situated around school to ensure there is running water for pupils to wash their hands. Signs and posters will be visible around school to encourage good hand hygiene.

4. Minimising transmission into school

To minimise the transmission of the virus into school, parents will be advised to ensure their children are not sent to school if they show any COVID-19 symptoms. They will be advised to ensure their child is tested using a PCR test at the earliest opportunity and to inform school of the test results.

Pupils have been trained to use the LF test and these will be used at home before they come to school each Monday and Thursday.

5. What happens if a pupil displays COVID symptoms in school?

If a pupil is displaying COVID-19 symptoms, or discloses that they have symptoms, they will be supervised in the PIR room. This room will be cleaned regularly as per the risk assessment. Parents will be contacted at the earliest opportunity and will be encouraged to have their child tested. Once parents have been contacted, the APLs will work with parents to facilitate such a test. These pupils will vacate site at the earliest opportunity and will be allowed to return when they have completed their 10 days isolation if the test is positive.

6. What happens if a member of staff displays COVID symptoms in school?

If a member of staff is displaying symptoms, they must inform BGY / JBR immediately. Where it is safe for the member of staff to leave site, they must do so, and book a test at the earliest opportunity. The PCR result should be sent to the headteacher and HR Manager (HWD).

If there is an onset of COVID-19 symptoms during out of school hours including a weekend, staff should contact their line manager and XBS immediately. XBS will advise other staff who have had close contact to book a PCR test and self-isolate if they start showing symptoms.

If staff are waiting for a PCR test and attending school they should ensure social distancing and wear a face covering in communal areas.

For all other non-covid absences staff should continue to contact the headteacher between 7am and 7.30 am each day until the member of staff can return to school in line with guidelines.

If there is an incident where an individual teacher must self-isolate for any reason, cover work should be set as per school policy. If possible, teachers should also aim to make use of Microsoft Teams to record instructional videos that explain key points within the lesson that cover teachers can share with the pupils to support their learning. The voice recording facility on PowerPoint should also be made use of to allow teachers to record instructions for tasks, explain key lesson content and talk through modelled examples.

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