



St. George's School

A Church of England Academy

'Our vision is to be outstanding through the provision of consistent academic excellence within a caring, Christian community'
Headteacher: Mr G Warnock

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to St George's!

This will be the first of many letters you receive from me throughout your child's educational journey with the Team SG family, and I am confident that over the next 5 years we will all enjoy watching your child grow and mature into the successful young adult that we all hope our children will become.

I would like to once again thank you for choosing St George's. I am writing to reassure all our prospective new parents, and pupils with regard to some aspects of you joining us in September. At this time of year our new year 7's will be feeling excited and possibly apprehensive. Our goal is to make the transition to St George's as worry free as possible.

As a reminder:

Transition weeks across Blackpool were cancelled because of Covid19. Many schools will induct their year 7 pupils in September. However, after the overwhelming positive response to our online survey from our new parents, we have decided to welcome our new year 7's for 2 induction days in August.

These will be on Thursday 27th August and Friday 28th August. We will then be fully open to all pupils on Wednesday 2nd September and year 7's should be in school by 8.20am.

Transition to secondary school is one of the biggest and most significant changes in a child's life, which is why at St George's, we place the utmost importance on getting it right, this is to ensure all of our new year 7 pupils are happy, motivated and primed to be the best that they can be.

Although this year is different than normal, our approach to transition consists of a bespoke programme of modelling expectations that are tailored to enable all new pupils feel the warm welcome St George's offers, alongside developing an awareness and application of 'The SG WAY – OUR DNA', which makes a good learner.

Over the two days, we will take our pupils step by step through the routine of a school day, including all Covid19 safety measures, from entry in the morning to exit at the end of day, from morning meetings & collective worship, to line up and transition. Our aim is to ensure our young people know how we do things the correct way, from the very beginning, removing that worry about getting it wrong.

We would also like to build in some testing to gain a picture of any gaps in learning and help the academy place our young people in the sets that will give them the maximum support.

We would like year 7 to attend the transition days on **Thursday 27th August 2020 and Friday 28th August 2020 at 8.20am. We will finish at 1.00pm on both days.** Full uniform should be worn and school bags and equipment brought to the academy. Our website has a full list of appropriate items. Pupils will be greeted at the main school gate and directed by staff from this point. Please can we ask parents/carers to maintain social distancing from others if you are dropping off or picking up your child. It is also important to discuss with your child if they are to walk home at 1pm or if they are being collected.

Please note that if for any reason your child can not attend the transition days this will not affect their attendance. Attendance monitoring begins from Wednesday September 2nd.

Our kitchens will still be closed so please could you provide your child with a packed lunch and a snack for early morning break.

Thank you to those that have filled in the google form. If you have not already done so, please could you fill in the google form via the link to acknowledge attendance for the transition days, and to ensure we have the most up to date contact and medical details.

Finally, I know you will have other questions regarding Covid19. Attached below are some frequently asked questions that demonstrate our approach for dealing with Covid19 on our full return, this should answer any other questions you have.

Yours sincerely

G Warnock

Mr G Warnock

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfZaj3vjhbSJ9uz9cB2VFv9X5Jqofxw5z3iSIGN2RmPNsugA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Covid19 Update & FAQ

Over the summer break, our site has had a full deep clean and all annual safety checks have been completed. As previously stated when we reopen we will be following government guidelines when pupils return in relation to:

- Minimising contact with those who are unwell.
- Cleaning hands thoroughly and more often.
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Enhanced cleaning.
- Minimising contact between individuals and year groups (including separate family breaks and family lunch for all year groups)

Although we will need to make adjustments as to how the school day will run, we are fully committed to ensuring each of our pupils will still experience the full range of curriculum subjects which underpin 'The SG Way'.

First day back starting times

Year group	Start time
Year 7, Year 8, Year 9	Wednesday 2 nd September 08:20
Year 10 & Year 11	Wednesday 2 nd September 10.45

Question - How will my child catch up?

Answer - We all are concerned that the interruption to school has impacted our child's learning. Whilst there will be challenges for us to address and learning gaps to be filled, I must ask that you maintain the position of not worrying about this and allow the school to take on this burden. We have been working closely with the primaries collating the most up to date information on progress and we are confident that with the development of our curriculum booklets, alongside the expertise of our teaching team, we will ensure your child has all the knowledge they will need for whatever stage they are at in their education

Question - Does my child have to attend?

Answer - Attendance will be mandatory in September, as the government expects all pupils to attend school. The usual rules will apply, meaning we will be recording attendance and following up on any absences.

If your children have been staying at home due to the current shielding guidance, the government has paused this guidance on 1 August. That means they should be able to come back to school in September.

However, if you've received clinical or public health advice that your children should still remain at home, please let us know and continue to follow that guidance. We'll be offering remote education to these pupils.

Question – Where do pupils go on the first day?

Answer – Pupils should arrive in good time at the normal pupil entrance. It is important to reinforce with your child that where possible, including walking to and from the Academy (with siblings being the exception) they should only be socialising with pupils from their own year group. This will support our year group bubble strategy. On the transition days we will show the new year 7's where to go. Staff will also be at the entrance to direct pupils on the first day of term in September.

Question – How will pupils be grouped in bubbles?

Answer – We have adopted a year group bubble model so that line up, morning meetings, worship, lessons, break and dinner will be in year groups with distancing between other groups. Line up already occurs outside which reduces

transmission risk. In the event of rain, pupils would be directed straight to their tutor rooms. To support distancing we have extended the school yard so that we have between 5m to 10m distance between each year group bubble.

Question – What will lessons look like?

Answer – At St George’s we already have very strict routines to support lesson behaviour. Our classroom expectations will remain the same. Our teachers have been working hard to develop curriculum booklets in every subject and these will help close any gaps and accelerate progress. We are still waiting for guidance on subjects such as PE and practical subjects but, as we are committed to a full curriculum, we intend for these lessons to continue in an adopted form. Every classroom will have a sanitising point on entry and exit for pupils to use as part of their normal routines.

Question – How will changeover between lessons work?

Answer – In keeping a full curriculum, pupils will need access to specialist classrooms and as such will move around the site. At St George’s we already operate single file, walking on the left hand side, silent transitions which reduces proximity to other pupils. We know from scientific guidance that transitory transmission (passing on the virus whilst on the corridor) is low. Please discuss the importance of single file and maintaining distancing. Any pupil blatantly flouting single file will be sanctioned. Our goal is to minimise risk as much as possible throughout the day

Question – Are you having any staggered starts or finishes to the academy day?

Answer – We consulted on extending the academy day for everyone. As previously stated from September, year 7-9 will finish at 3.00pm and year 10-11 at 3.30pm. From January the whole academy will finish at 3.30pm. Extending our day allows for us to catch up on lost learning and gives our young people an advantage over other locally and nationally. Dismissal at the end of the day will follow our silent transition policy, walking on the left, as year 10 and year 11 will still be being taught. This will also support social distancing off site. We would ask you to discuss the importance of not waiting in groups outside of the school gates and beyond.

Question – Will you be making any changes to the behaviour policy?

Answer – The majority of pupils at St George’s are excellent role models. Our behaviour policy has been very strict for the last few years and we experience very little disruption. This is one of the reasons our young people leave with the best results in Blackpool and the Fylde. Any pupils wilfully ignoring rules around physical contact/distancing will be dealt with through our sanctions protocol.

Question – How will break and lunch work with such large numbers?

Answer – We will manage break and lunch by having a separate lunch for each year group. We have changed our day internally so that year 10 and 11 will have lunch at 12.20pm and 12.40pm. Year 10 and 11 will also sit in an allocated zone. Year 7 to year 9 will have lunch between the times of 1.00pm to 2.00pm. These year groups will sit with their tutor family in the same seat every day. As a family, we will be teaching good habits on setting tables, clearing tables, cleaning tables and leaving them as you found them. Each pupil will also have time outside in the yard with their own year group. Sanitising stations will also be available before and after each pay point.

Unfortunately the refectory cannot be opened in the morning before the day starts because different year groups would be mixing indoors together for a period of time. We will be reviewing this as the national picture develops.

Question – What are the expectations around uniform?

Answer – Full and correct uniform is expected for all. The academy has a stock of uniform that it will be able to share with pupils for any infringements. The stock has been quarantined and will be distributed, where necessary following government guidance. Our uniform and presentation policy is on the website. Please check this carefully, especially in relation to footwear. None of us want to start the term off on a bad footing. When we choose St George’s we agree to follow the rules.

Tie colours are as follows- Year 7 – Purple, Year 8 – Gold, Year 9 and 10 – same as previous year, Year 11 black tie with red stripe.

Question – Will we still be using school bags?

Answer – Yes, all pupils require a school bag as set out in the uniform policy. All pupils should also have all the correct equipment. Before we broke up we supplied pencil cases to all year 7 and year 8 that needed them. We still have some in stock for other years if required. Parents can support our young people by helping them check they have everything ready for the following day.

Question – How will the academy maintain the strict hygiene regime?

Answer – We have increased the number of cleaners on site and the hours that they work. Each classroom will have access to cleaning materials which can be used when year group bubbles change over. Every classroom will also have hand sanitiser on entry/exit of the classroom. However, as not all desks will be cleaned between all lessons, our focus must remain on exemplary personal hygiene. We encourage pupils to make the best use of the toilet facilities at break and lunch. Our toilets will have a cleaner on hand throughout the day and they will be regularly cleaned throughout the day. Please reiterate that everyone must wash their hands regularly and avoid touching their faces. All classrooms, social spaces and toilets have been fitted with lidded bins to support ‘catch it, kill it and bin it’.

Question – Will visitors be allowed on site?

Answer – For the first half term, there will be no meetings on site, no events after the academy day and our learning hub/library will be closed. We will also be unable to fulfil unscheduled meetings and will only be able to bring parents onto site in pre-arranged meetings following social distancing rules. The reception will remain open, but access cannot be given past the first doors into the academy. We ask you to communicate via email or telephone where possible and we will have online meetings, if required.

Question – What will the first aid procedures be?

Answer – The most important rule is that pupils must NOT be sent to the academy if they are displaying symptoms related to Covid19. Where a pupil is displaying symptoms related to Covid19, they will be removed and isolated. They will be attended to by a member of staff in a higher grade of PPE. Parents will be contacted and asked to collect their child and follow Public Health England guidance. Following any incidents or outbreaks the Academy will follow and take direction from the government and Public Health England.

Question – What do I need to do if my child has a care plan?

Answer – Parents of pupils who currently have a care plan will be required to review the plan and return it to the academy with any further details prior to September.

Online Provision

Our teachers have been working hard to produce curriculum booklets which cover every lesson in every subject. We are also completing more training on the use of google classroom. If we are forced into a local lockdown we will issue guidance on completing the online work and how to submit it for marking and feedback via google classroom. Our curriculum booklets will allow the academy to carry on with the curriculum thereby minimising any issues of our young people falling behind their peers nationally.

Catch up

We intend to run after school and Saturday school catch up provision once we have identified our learning gaps. Our initial plans would involve asking year groups to attend for a Saturday so that we complete some diagnostic testing on progress, attitudes to learning and mental strength. A lot of this testing will be completed during the transition days.