

A summary of the key changes to the St Nicholas School Covid-19 Risk Assessment (13/09/2021)

If pupils are showing any symptoms of being unwell (colds, tummy problems) please keep your young person at home. Please observe the 48 hour rule over diarrhoea or vomiting episodes.

Please do not send an unwell child 'into school with a dose of Calpol (and hope for the best)' – that potentially led to pupils who were positive for the delta variant coming into school and spreading COVID-19, in the last couple of weeks of the summer term.

1. We **strongly advise** that all staff and pupils (who are not exempt) continue to wear a face covering in communal areas and on school vehicles, until further notice. Staff may still choose to wear a face covering in the classroom if this makes them feel better. We also strongly recommend that staff and pupils (where able) continue to do twice weekly lateral flow tests and report them via the NHS website.
2. All visitors to the school including parents, drivers and escorts are expected to wear a face covering in communal areas (unless they are exempt) – the wearing of face masks for visitors is now our policy. Any visiting personnel attending the school from other organisations for a CPL opportunities will be expected to show evidence of a negative LF test from within 24 hours of the start of their course (on arrival and in the form of their text or email report).
3. The school is no longer operating in class or department bubbles. Pupils and staff can now move between classes and rooms – but they must observe good hand hygiene and ventilation must be present. The department may share staff and provide lifeguards to other classes to support with staffing (the current levels of hydro pool cleaning will be maintained until further notice).

Decisions over whether to reduce attendance within class (in the event of low staffing levels) caused by staff absence will only occur if the complex medical needs of a specific class mean that safe operation may be affected. Full or partial closure of classes will be avoided if at all possible.

4. Contact tracing will now be conducted by NHS Test and Trace only. If a staff or pupil is exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19 they will be sent home and asked to get a PCR test, they may return if the results are negative – the other members of the class will still be able to attend school at this point provided that they are under 18.5 years old or are double vaccinated. Classes will not be closed at this point, as a positive case is not yet confirmed, this is in-line with current government guidance.

Pupils and staff should still attend school if *a member of their family* has been notified by NHS Test and Trace that they have been in close contact with someone provided that they (the staff member or pupil) are not displaying symptoms.

If a staff member or pupil (via their family) is notified (by NHS Test and Trace) that they are a close contact of a person who is positive for COVID-19 they should immediately go for a PCR test and return to school, if the results are negative.

5. If any pupil or staff member have a positive lateral flow test there are to go for a PCR test and may return to school if the test is negative.

Should a member of the household of a pupil or school employee receive positive a lateral flow test, that family member **only** needs to get a PCR test Other members of the household (including the St Nicholas pupil or [double vaccinated] staff should take a daily Lateral Flow test and, if negative, continue to attend school.

6. If there is an outbreak, (a small number [2+] of linked cases), or an individual case which results in a person being hospitalised by COVID-19, the advice of PHE will be sought. Where the positive case features a staff member we will ring the DFE COVID-19 helpline on **0800 046 8687**, if the positive case is from a staff member, we will then ring the NHS Test and Trace Employers Line – **0203 7436715** (if there are any colleagues who are not fully vaccinated as potential close contacts). We will then speak to PHE on **0344 225 3861**.

St Nicholas School has an Outbreak Management Plan which will be enacted following the start of an outbreak 2+ cases in the same class (at main school)/satellite area or 3+ cases on the same Key Stage/Corridor (at main school). PHE will help support us with any outbreak in school due to our "escalated status" - having clinically extremely vulnerable pupils. We will follow the advice of the PHE South East Educational Settings Outbreak Pack (where applicable).

If a staff member or pupil has tested positive they will need to isolate for 10 days but those close contacts from class will still be able to come into school. We will seek the advice of PHE if any staff member or student was present in any school building during their infectious period. Staff and parents should notify NHS Test and Trace of the positive case who will advise any close contacts to see a PCR Test. If staff and pupils HAVE been contacted by NHS test and trace and they have then had a (negative) PCR test – they may return to school provided they are under 18.5 years old or are double vaccinated. Any non or partially-vaccinated adults, over the age of 18.5 years, should observe a 10 day self-isolation period.

7. St Nicholas School is exploring the use of air purification devices in classes and rooms where ventilation is small or having open windows may cause a difficulty for pupils' health. The school will receive 24 Carbon Dioxide monitors to help us judge the air quality of all other classrooms.
8. Daily staff and student temperature checks will only be given to people feeling/appearing unwell during the school day.
9. The School Lateral Flow Test site is closed with all twice weekly tests taking place at home - these are supplied from the school stock of tests. As per DFE guidance those staff/students who may return a positive LF test (at home or school) will need to seek a confirmatory PCR test. LF testing will continue to be used twice weekly; Lateral Flow Tests and all PPE is stored in the school archive (and/or the training centre) and be distributed to classes once per week, as required.
10. Visitors (including parents) may now come into school for short meetings of up to one hour during the school day and/or to attend training courses. Visitors from other agencies or settings who are entering the main body of the school will be expected to provide a negative lateral flow test. Should we have to enact our Outbreak Management Plan, (on the advice of PHE) we will revert back to bubble classes temporarily including drop off and pick up (avoiding the busy hall), make the wearing of face coverings in communal areas mandatory and allow only 'essential' visitors to enter the school again.
11. A day time enhanced cleaning regime and the 2-staged arrival and departure times (transport then parents) will continue from September 2021.
12. The Training Centre will be open to courses with visitors, who are asked to present a negative LF test for within 24hrs prior to their arrival.
13. The breakfast club is in place for those pupils and families wishing to take this opportunity.
14. Group assemblies, celebrations and activity clubs can now take place in school again.

15. Specialist subject teaching in the specialist rooms has been reintroduced, with specific hygiene mitigations will be planned. Satellite groups will have the specialist teacher based there for all day or they will need to observe social distancing to reduce the potential transmission of the COVID-19 virus and to limit the movement of people between sites across the week for the foreseeable future (*Staff now all have been offered 2 vaccinations*).
16. St Nicholas School will facilitate any eligible pupils from 12 – 16 who wish to receive a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to receive it. The school will also facilitate any eligible people aged 16+ who wish to receive a COVID-19 booster vaccine to receive it.
17. Group Active Education sessions take place in the gym and OT room, and 1-1 sessions will continue all taking place with enhanced hygiene regimes. Literacy and numeracy withdrawal groups will be active, with a suitable risk assessment and mitigations in the sunflower room. MOVE teaching groups and SHINE classes take place again,
18. Swimming in the public pools and horse riding will take place from term 1, provided that the site concerned is happy to welcome us back.
19. Class groups will make visits into town. If pupils are accessing community facilities the teachers will plan supervision ratios into small groups, where safe and reasonably practicable to do so - according to the specific off-site activity risk analysis. If our pupils are to go on a visit to an indoor location the off-site risk analysis will need to reflect C-19 transmission risk management measures.
20. School groups will be allowed to have access to public transport but will need to follow the company policies and we expect our staff/students (who are not exempt) to continue wearing a face covering. On school vehicles, we strongly advise that face coverings continue to be used by those who normally do so. Social distancing will no longer need to be observed on school vehicles.
21. Assemblies and meetings can continue to be virtual, in part, to make it easier for satellite pupils/staff to join in, where appropriate.
22. Students will continue to be seated in the fashion that leads to most socially distant/safe arrangement for the foreseeable future.
23. Parents evening consultations & EHC meetings will have a virtual or telephone element.
24. If required, the school will revise this risk assessment to fully implement the advice of the COVID -19 Autumn and Winter Plan.
25. Lunchtime arrangement changes:
 - Main School – will return to ordinary measures
 - 6th Form /Canterbury College – timings are 8.45 til 2.45 pm. Lunchtime will be 11.30 am in the refectory. Break and social times have returned to pre-COVID19 arrangements. The timetable for 6th Form has returned to include the mixing in-between groups e.g. for optional activities. Use of outdoor spaces and increased ventilation opportunities will continue to be used. The 6th Form has new air conditioning opportunities which are safe and compliant with COVID-19 advice. There will continue to be two daytime cleaning periods at 10 am and 2 pm in addition to the daily (evening) deep clean.
 - Parkside – this campus has not changed its operating procedures.
 - Spires – pupils will start to have their break and lunch times as they were pre-COVID-19 (including eating their meals in the Heart Space/use of the field and playgrounds) and shared with the Spires students. Timings will be 8.45 – 2.45 pm. Pupils will begin to

resume assemblies with a request made for inclusion and lunchtime clubs to resume, as soon as possible.

- Canterbury Primary – Hours to remain 9 to 2.45 PM, lunch playtime is now 15 mins shorter to regain time to full time. Groups within satellite now mix together. Ours and theirs are to Children to mix on playground and have lunch over in canteen. Our KS1 to join CPS KS1 assem and KS2 to assemb. Enrichment pm to be restarted
- Canterbury Academy Secondary School – Daily timings will continue to be 8.30 til 2.30. Break and lunchtime arrangements will continue as before, in shared spaces alongside the main school pupils.
- St Johns – Timings will be 9– 3 pm. Lunchtime will be 11.45 am, a request has been made for the group to eat in the lunch hall. Playtimes remain the same in the groups' own playground but with access to school equipment on a timetable (for certain lunchtimes). Ventilation is not good in the classroom event with the windows fully open so a CO2 monitor will be allocated.
- Chartham – Pupils are now having lunch in the dinner hall with all other pupils, but are to eat at their own allocated class tables. Pupils may now freely move around the playground and play with Chartham pupils. Shared assemblies are now taking place with pupils seating in the allocated class positions. Enhanced sanitation and cleaning regimes will continue.
- Forest School – has returned to pre-COVID-19 arrangements but with the benefit of the second site.
- Independent Living Skills – the use of the cottage has returned to pre-COVID-19 arrangements.