



St Mark's West Essex Catholic School

Home/school partnership arrangements (for use during COVID-19)

Date Reviewed:	June 2020
Next Review Date:	June 2021
Committee:	Curriculum, Pupils and Admissions

Introduction:

Since 23rd March 2020, St Mark's has remained open to a priority group of children and young people, children of key workers and vulnerable children. In reviewing this arrangement and with regard to DfE and Local Authority guidance it is now time to begin the phased return of children and young people in a way that is measured, reduces risks and is guided by science.

Please be assured that in planning to welcome back more pupils into our school, the safety of our children and staff has been at the forefront of our minds.

Changes for a phased return from 1 June 2020.

We will continue to offer places to the priority groups, vulnerable children and children of key workers as in the previous COVID-19 home school partnership arrangement shared with parents and staff when lockdown commenced.

What the school leaders will do (headteachers, senior leaders and governors)

We have carried out a detailed and rigorous risk assessment for a phased return of children. The health and safety of our children and staff is everyone's first priority. We will act in accordance with current government guidance on hygiene (including cleaning) and safe distancing.

The following protective measures are in place:

- the availability of soap and hot water for washing of hands
- the location and use of hand sanitiser stations
- the location and use of bins for the disposal of tissues and any other waste
- ensuring there is a supply of disposable tissues to implement the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach in each classroom
- ensuring that teaching groups will be isolated from other groups of children as far as possible while they are in school.

We may need to change our decisions based on new government guidance as the current situation develops or based on our school context and the outcome of the risk assessment. As there is a significant change in school and classroom organisation, the school will need to review and revise policies implemented across the school at this time.

We will

- continue to follow the safeguarding policies and procedures where concerns have been identified
- inform parents/ carers of developments or changes in provision in as timely a way as possible
- inform parents/ carers and children of any modifications that will need to be made to the school's behaviour management policy during this phase of re-opening. This revision will include re-affirming our expectations and any sanctions we will be making when the expectations are not being met.
- work through the hierarchy of measures for implementing protective measures for all which are:
 - avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
 - frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
 - regular cleaning of settings
 - minimising contact and mixing

We will

- contact parents/ carers should their child become unwell
- make decisions about what children will learn and how to help children to adapt to new school routines and restrictions
- liaise with the local authority transport providers to understand the safety measures being used for travel to and from the school. We will be guided by them and will inform parents of any changes as and when appropriate
- keep in regular contact with parents/ carers and ensure they are updated.

Where there are pupils with education, health and care (EHC) plans, we will work with the local authority and other external partners to make reasonable endeavours to provide all or some of the provision written in an EHC plan. This may mean that the provision for a child may temporarily differ from what is set out in their EHC plan. This will be renewed on a monthly basis.

What parents/carers need to do to support their children and the school:

- Work with us to help bring your child back to school. Please communicate regularly with us if you choose to keep your child at home at any time during this phase of re-opening.
- Provide your emergency contact details. This is so that we have the most accurate information should there be a need to contact you.
- Recognise and support the school in any adaptations or modifications which we have made to the school's behaviour management policy.
- Understand that these are challenging times and accept circumstances for providing education in school may vary and change quickly. Your child may not be taught by their usual teacher because of smaller class sizes and staff availability each day.
- Follow all hygiene regulations put in place by school leaders. You must carefully follow all the instructions for the staggered dropping off and collection of children for everyone's safety. You must also follow the distancing arrangements in place for dropping off and collecting children at the start and end of the day.
- You should be aware of the recommendations on using transport to and from school. If you can, avoid and reduce any unnecessary travel on coaches and public transport.
- If for any reason your child is unable to attend school please notify the school through the usual procedure.

It is essential that you must inform school leaders if your child or anyone in the household develops COVID-19 symptoms. Please follow government advice regarding isolating measures to reduce the risk of transmission.

If you have any concerns about your child/ren or they are displaying symptoms of stress or anxiety, please contact the school and follow Public Health England (PHE) advice.

If your child has an EHC plan, please be aware that we may not be able to offer the full range of provision outlined in the plan. We will contact you directly to inform you of the reasonable endeavours we have put in place to provide appropriate support for your child.

What children need to do

- Children need to follow any altered routines for arrival, leaving from school and moving around during the school day.
- Children must follow the school's rules on handwashing and using sanitiser, including the use of toilets. They must meet the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' expectations. They must tell an adult if they feel unwell.
- Children should follow the rules about sharing equipment and other items.
- Children follow adult instructions within the classroom, at breaktimes and lunchtimes and where they can play.
- Children must not share food or drink with others.
- Children must follow the school's rules and expectations to keep them safe both when in school and when working online when using remote learning.

Above all, all children should demonstrate their usual respectful behaviour towards each other and adults. They should try their best to ensure the health and safety of others by following the teacher's instructions to avoid unnecessary contact.