



4 June 2020

Dear parents/carers,

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Year 10 school arrangements.

Further information from school for parents/carers of year 10 pupils who expressed an interest in their child accessing some schooling before September.

Following the government's announcement that secondary schools will be able to provide some face to face support to year 10 students at some point after 15th June 2020, I am writing to share with you, arrangements that we have implemented to ensure the safety of all staff, pupils and visitors to the school. These arrangements have been put into place following a robust risk assessment process.

I am also writing to you so that you can confirm you still would want your child to attend allocated sessions. Due to recent constrictions placed upon us, for example only being allowed to have 25% of year 10 on site at any one time, the timetabling of these sessions is now underway but we appreciate that your opinion on school attendance may have changed over the half term break. Consequently, I enclose a link below to a survey for you to complete to signify your intention. Though I understand that the local and national picture can change, I would ask that any commitment for your child to attend is solid, as a child not turning up at school when he/she is expected would bring with it safeguarding concerns that would exacerbate an already difficult situation. All students must be allocated into a 'bubble' of approximately 10 students, which will be staffed by one member of staff. Consequently, children attending school without prior indication from parents, may also mean that we are understaffed for the day, as teachers are only being requested to come into school when they are required, maintaining working from home on a rota basis to again minimise potential infection rates.

I can therefore confirm that school will reopen to those students in Year 10 who have expressed clear interest and who are not children of key workers already in (who will be supervised elsewhere on site - this is to minimise any cross contamination) and will send out further information when plans are finalised. As mentioned, before reopening, we have completed a robust risk assessment to identify the risks associated with coronavirus specific to our school and minimise those risks as far as we are able to. All staff and pupils will have access to testing if they develop symptoms of coronavirus, and rapid action will be taken should any test come back positive to ensure that the school continues to be a safe environment. The affected pupil or member of staff will be required to self-isolate at home for 14 days, as will any pupils and members of staff they have been in close contact with (e.g. the rest of the pupil's class).

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"

Justice, Tolerance, Forgiveness and Generosity

Headteacher Miss L Corrigan BSc (Hons), PGCE, PGDip, FRSB
Telephone 0161 764 3186
Email stgabriels@bury.gov.uk
Website www.st-gabriels.org.uk
Postal address Bridge Road, Bury, BL9 0TZ



@stgabsbury



DIocese of SALFORD

Maintaining a safe school environment

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the preventative measures the school has put in place in order to minimise the spread of infection.

As per the advice from the government, the following actions for infection control remain in place:

- Displaying coronavirus infection control measures information posters around the school
- Encouraging good hygiene by promoting the importance of handwashing for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap in the following circumstances:
 - Before leaving home
 - On arrival at school
 - After using the toilet
 - Hand wash breaks
 - Before eating any food, including snacks
 - Before leaving school
- Installing alcohol-based hand sanitiser dispensers that contain at least 60 percent alcohol throughout the school
- Ensuring pupils and staff understand that they must cover their mouth and nose with a tissue before they cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue away
- Ensuring frequently touched objects and surfaces are cleaned and disinfected more regularly than usual
- Isolating any unwell people in a separate room, and providing a separate bathroom, where possible
- Telling staff to stay at home for 14 days if they develop symptoms of coronavirus

As an important part of our school community, I would ask that you continue to encourage good infection control practices, such as thorough handwashing, at home and keep your child informed about the things they can do to discourage the spread of infection.

As per the current NHS and government advice, you should keep your child at home for a period of 14 days if they develop coronavirus symptoms. Symptoms include a high temperature or a new, continuous cough. Where symptoms continue after 7 days, or begin to worsen, you should call 111. If someone in your child's household has symptoms, your child must self-isolate for 14 days from the day the other person's symptoms started. This is because it can take 14 days for symptoms to appear. More information regarding symptoms and actions can be found on the NHS website (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>).

If you think your child may have been exposed to or has coronavirus, please contact the school office on **0161 764 3186** at the earliest opportunity.

School uniform

We ask that your child wears school uniform when attending school. If you have any difficulties due to your child having damaged or grown out of their uniform please adapt as close to the uniform as possible.

School is also aware that parents where possible will be washing clothes worn at school more frequently, which may not be possible for some uniform items (e.g. blazer may not be able to be washed every night if pupil needs to wear it again the next day.)

Arrangements for the start and end of the school day

The beginning and end of the school day are the busiest times for children and adults congregating together in one place, so maintaining safe distances within normal arrangements can be a challenge. We have implemented the following measures for when pupils return to school:

- We encourage pupils to walk or cycle to school if possible and avoid public transport where possible and at peak times.
 - The times for dropping off and picking up pupils will be staggered and Year 10 students will be asked to arrive at a specific time and this will be communicated later.
 - School transport will not be running at this time.
 - If your child travels to school with an alternative company or via public transport, please ensure you visit the relevant company website to be informed of any changes to travel arrangements.
- Pupils will line up outside and enter the school through the corridor near room 16 and will be met by a member of staff.
- Your child will only be accessing one classroom block and will be using the one of the following rooms only:
 - Rm 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; they will use a marked one-way system that has been set up in the school corridors to minimise face-to-face contact between pupils and make it easier to follow social distancing guidance.

Arrangements for break times

We recognise the importance for all pupils to have a break from learning. At this time breaks will be taken in their allocated classroom not in an outdoor setting.

There will be no on site break or lunchtime facilities. This will be reflected in the adjustments to the school day.

Your child may bring a water bottle and snack pack as long it is tightly sealed and in their school bag. They will be allowed to eat this at their desk on the 'break' from school work. There will be NO practical or physical movement outside at this time.

Further information regarding a school day

Children will be allocated into groups ('bubbles') and you will know their group name before school reopens for them. To minimise exposure to others these groups once selected will not change. The sessions for a group will always be in the same room. The size of the group will be commensurate with the safe capacity of the room they are in. For some rooms to maintain social distancing this is 7 children. Children will be expected to remain in their allocated place for the session. Due to the need to keep the same individuals within groups together the only sessions provided at this time will be in the Core subjects (Maths, English, Science, RE). Any child attending on a particular day will stay with the same teacher doing that particular subject. The work done in a particular session will be identical to the work that will be posted online on Show My Homework for that week. Children are asked to bring their own stationery and books for writing in and leave with what they have brought at the end of the session. Any assessment of work will be done within the session. Dependent on uptake, children will be likely to only attend sessions on certain day/days of the week, not necessarily every week and this will be communicated to you once plans are finalised. Teachers are encouraged to deliver sessions wearing appropriate PPE. Should you wish your child to attend with their own PPE this is permitted but we do not insist upon it. Please note that should your child fail to follow guidelines such as those on social distancing they will be asked to leave and stay at home for the remainder of term.

As stated, your child will be asked to arrive at a specified time for their session. Each session your child attends will last 3 hours. Within this time there will be a break that will be taken within the room. The start time of sessions will be staggered to assist with the safe arrival and exit of your child to and from school. Should your child be attending you will be made aware of these times and of the subsequent timetable.

Support for pupils and families

Even in normal circumstances, this can be a worrying time for children, and for some, the recent time away from school may have magnified their distress. We do not underestimate how difficult the recent weeks have been for us all and we all will have been touched in some way by the coronavirus pandemic. We recognise the need to focus on pupils' emotional wellbeing as well as their return to learning. The following support is also in place for pupils once they return to school:

Each day the team of staff in school will include the Pastoral Team and Support from SEND, Pastoral managers and Inclusion leads.

To ensure your child's attendance is factored into our plans please could I ask that you complete the year 10 link below before 7/6/2020.

[Year 10 Return to School Survey](#)

We are looking forward to seeing the pupils once again, though I would like to reassure you that the safety of our school community is our priority. We will continue to review the arrangements we have implemented at this stage and update you with any changes as and when we make them.

I hope that these arrangements provide you with the information you need to support your child's return to school. I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for supporting the school over recent weeks and supporting your child with their home learning.

Yours sincerely,



Miss L Corrigan
Headteacher