

ST MARGARET'S

SCHOOL

COVID-19 REOPENING POLICY - EYFS

COVID-19: Implementing Protective Measures for return to St Margaret's EYFS (in accordance with ongoing Government guidance)

This document follows the U.K. Government guidance concerned with preventing the spread of coronavirus with the aims of ensuring the highest standards of safety are maintained and applies to:

- *Direct Transmission* (e.g. sneezing and coughing)
- *Indirect Transmission* (via touching contaminated surfaces).
- *Social Distancing*

Direct transmission

- As part of the **whole school policy**, the Head or Head of Junior School will communicate via email with all in the School community that anyone who has developed a new, continuous cough, has a high temperature, or has lost sense of taste or smell, should self-isolate for 7 days and not attend School.
- Similarly, children and staff that live in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable, as set out in the government guidance, will be advised in the same communication that they do not attend the EYFS setting, as social distancing cannot be adhered to.
- Parents are asked to take their child's temperature each morning before school, a child should be kept at home if this is high, and certainly if it is higher than 38 degrees. There are thermometers onsite which we may use if we have concerns.
- For those that develop symptoms *during* the school day, the **whole school procedure** for isolating the pupil or member of staff will be adhered to. This includes isolation, use of PPE and contacting the parents to request immediate collection. Isolation will be in an empty, well ventilated classroom. (LSM05).
- Government guidelines indicate that face coverings are not required in school environments for general interactions between pupils and staff. However, staff may choose to wear them and parents may choose to send their children in wearing face coverings or gloves.
- Scheduled cleaning of classrooms by cleaning staff will take place before and after school and during the lunch period when no children or staff will be in the classroom. Where classrooms need to be entered by cleaning staff at any other point in the day, the designated EYFS teachers will ensure the children are not in the building.
- Toileting or vomiting accidents will be immediately cleaned up by cleaning staff (informed by the designated member of EYFS staff or the Head of Junior School) wearing appropriate PPE: gloves, mask and an apron as specified by government guidance .
- The cleaning and changing of children following toileting or vomiting accidents will be carried out by teaching staff wearing PPE (gloves, apron, facemask) as set out in the government guidance. If there is a risk of splashing to the eyes (e.g. from coughing, spitting or vomiting), then eye protection will also be provided and should be worn.

Indirect transmission

The following will be included in the EYFS PSHE classes from June 1st and as a priority, taught, practised and reinforced by teaching staff on an ongoing, continuous basis.

- The designated EYFS teacher will supervise the children washing hands thoroughly for 20 seconds and the Nursery Rhyme 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' will be used for the children to time this.
- The designated EYFS teacher will supervise hands being washed on entering and leaving the classroom, before and after eating, after blowing noses, after coughing or sneezing.
- The designated EYFS teacher will supervise the washing of hands when children are observed touching their eyes, noses or mouth area.
- The designated EYFS teacher will supervise hands being washed when visibly dirty
- The designated EYFS teacher will teach and guide the children with good respiratory hygiene. Children will be guided in good cough etiquette and encouraged to cough into the side of their elbow.
- The designated EYFS teacher will ensure pupils wash their hands before and after each learning activity at a table and where shared resources are used.
- The designated cleaning staff will clean all toilet walls, toilets, sinks, doors, door handles, tables, chairs, three times a day.
- The designated EYFS teacher will spot clean touched surfaces throughout the day. Table tops will be wiped down between being used by individual children. Flip top bin lids will be cleaned after each use. Cleaning materials and gloves will be provided by the school for this.
- The designated EYFS teacher will ensure that EYFS children only use the designated EYFS classroom toilets and that these are not used by other children.
- At lunchtime, the designated EYFS teacher will supervise use of the toilets that have been designated for use by the EYFS children only.
- The designated EYFS teacher will supply each child with their own resource pack that they alone will use and not share. It will contain a whiteboard, pen, board rubber, felt tip set, chalk, pencil, scissors, glue stick.
- The designated EYFS teacher will supervise the use of hand sanitiser and wet wipes when learning outside. Wet wipes will be used to clean visible dirt before hand sanitiser is used. Hand sanitiser will be provided by school.
- Toys from home are not permitted into School. This will be communicated to parents as part of the returning to school information letter from the Head of EYFS/Head of Junior School. The designated EYFS teacher will remove and store soft toys, furnishings and toys that are difficult to clean from the classrooms.
- Where possible, and keeping in mind fire safety and safeguarding, classrooms will be well ventilated with open windows and propped open doors.
- The designated EYFS teacher will wash any toys and resources after play and before a different group of children have access to them. This will be done by placing in an out of bounds lidded plastic box containing a solution of Milton supplied by the school.

Social Distancing

Due to the social and emotional needs of young children, social distancing will be difficult to maintain in an Early Years Setting. However, designated EYFS teaching staff will take steps to maximise the opportunities to implement social distancing, following the points below:.

- The classroom layout has been altered to reduce the distance between children when working at tables. Each child will be allocated a specific place to sit that will remain unchanged.
- There will be a reduced number of learning resources that the children have access to at any one time in order to keep track of all resources used and keep clean.
- Indoor learning areas that require close social contact, such as the role play area, have been removed from the classroom and placed in storage.
- Transmission risk will be reduced by keeping EYFS children and staff away from other members of the school community wherever possible. EYFS points of entry and exit are to be exclusive to that group.
- Children's coats and personal items will be kept in their cubbies. On arrival, children will pass their belongings to a staff member who will place the items in each individual cubby. Staff members will collect any needed items from the cubby and take to the child in the classroom to prevent gatherings in the EYFS foyer.

- Throughout the day, outside access will be gained through external classroom doors and not via the EYFS foyer.
- Children will use toilet facilities on a more restricted basis (not exceeding 2 children 1 adult) during routine times such as before snacks and break times, to maximise social distancing.

Posters

- Government provided posters will clearly be displayed in all EYFS classrooms

Morning drop-off and Afternoon collection procedures

- Clear instructions will be given to the parents outlining the procedure for arrival and departure at the school in communications from the Head of EYFS/Head of Junior School.
- Parents will be instructed not to congregate in the Victoria Road entrance car park and to keep to government social distancing measures at all times.
- EYFS children will enter via the wooden gated area, where they will be met by a member of staff. They will then go directly to the staffed EYFS play area where they will wait until all pupils have arrived.
- The start time for EYFS children will be staggered with other year groups. Children will arrive at 9am. Clearly marked waiting points will facilitate social distancing and no more than three sets of children/parents will be able to queue at any time.
- Parents wave their child from the last marker, where the child will be welcomed into School by a member of staff on the door.
- At 3:00pm, the reverse procedure will take place with children waiting in the play area and brought to the wooden gate when parents arrive. Parents will adhere to the morning process of using the social distance markers and restriction of no more than 3 in the queue at any one time.

General considerations within the school day

- Remote Learning will continue to be offered to children who remain at home.
- Learning in school will mirror that offered through the remote learning platform.
- Priority will be given to the PSHE and wellbeing of the children; understanding and making sense of the impact of coronavirus on their lives and those around them.
- Children will be supported and guided in how to keep themselves and others safer in school through games, songs and repetition.
- The timetable will be altered to ensure safe delivery of learning.
- Learning outdoors will be prioritised and is the preferred learning environment.
- EYFS children will be offered the choice of wearing their P.E. kits or Summer uniform. Parents will be advised to wash clothing daily.
- Movement around the School buildings will be minimised. EYFS children will have access to specific and exclusive outdoor play areas and will not have access to any part of the LSM building other than their classroom and toilets, unless placed in isolation due to covid-19 symptoms.
- EYFS children will only take part in assemblies through online platforms and not with other members of the School community.
- No other resources will be taken home from school. Most learning aids will be emailed out to families. However, in the rare instance that an essential item is needed at home, it will be placed in a zip-locked bag before transportation.

Meals and snacks

Teaching staff will supervise the following:

- EYFS Children will eat in their designated area. Lunch will be transported to the EYFS classroom and when possible, will be eaten outside.
- Food will be portioned, given to each child (rather than helping themselves) and not shared.

- Children will sit apart when eating

Pupil and Staff Well-being and Mental Health

- Members of the LSM EYFS community will follow **whole school guidance** and support in order to safeguard against possible difficulties that may arise as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.
- Opportunities to provide whole group and individual pastoral and enrichment support will be provided by designated EYFS teachers and the Head of the Junior School as necessary and will be tailored to cater for the needs of our School and EYFS community.

Behaviour Policy

- It is recognised that every child will respond in different ways to the impact of the changes impacted by the coronavirus. At all times, this will be monitored and taken into account with any behavioural issues that may come about

Communication

All members of the community will regularly be asked to share any concerns or feedback relating to steps taken to protect the community.

The school will communicate any changes to procedures using email to parents as well as raising with children where age appropriate.

There is a set of Covid-19 communication principles which guides senior staff.

Training and guidance documents are shared with staff, parents and pupils.

This document sits alongside the Covid-19 Reopening Policy -whole school. It should be read alongside the following documents: Risk Assessment in Covid-19 environment, Phased returning planning document and the various training documents.