



Thornleigh Salesian College

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Joint Public Health and Education Position on Additional Baseline Measures for Education Settings in Bolton.

Dear Parent/Carer

As you are aware since our return to school in September we have been working in line with the national guidance on managing our response to Covid-19. The local authority and schools in Bolton are working together to plan for and respond to cases of Covid-19 amongst staff and students in a way that prioritises the quality of education and support to which students and staff are normally entitled. At the current time Covid-19 cases in Bolton continue to be high and we are seeing cases rise markedly in school-age children and this is impacting for students and staff in affected settings. Some schools have started to experience challenges with staffing capacity as a result.

Therefore, we, along with all secondary schools in Bolton, are introducing a few simple measures to add to the current baseline measures in school which should help to ensure that students can continue to receive education in as normal a way as possible.

The measures selected intend to have minimal impact on education and are effective at reducing risk of transmission. These additional measures will be in place from Monday 18th October and the current guidance from the Local Authority and Public Health is that they remain in place until the end of December.

The additional measures are

- All staff, visitors, students, and their households to be encouraged to undertake twice-weekly lateral flow testing for people without symptoms. All symptomatic people to isolate and book a PCR test.
- Encourage the wearing of face coverings in communal areas for staff, visitors and students. At this stage masks are not advised in classrooms but students and staff may choose to wear one should they wish.
- If a member of a household is isolating following either a positive test, or symptoms, students should still attend school. It is advised that before coming to school each day that they carry out a lateral flow test and only attend school if their test is negative. They are also encouraged to follow national guidance for all contacts and access a PCR test at a Covid-19 test centre. People who have tested positive with a PCR test within the last 90 days do not need to be tested.
- We will reduce indoor gathering of large numbers and mixing between year groups as far as possible.
- Promote social distancing wherever possible for staff in school.



Whilst we are disappointed that we have had to re-introduce these measures, and we know they will impact on a number of events and activities in school, it is important that we prioritise keeping students in school for face to face learning. We will advise of any changes that need to be made to planned events over the coming weeks.

Could we please therefore ask you to ensure that your child attends school on Monday with a face covering (and a spare where possible) and encourage them to comply with this, and all other measures, for the greater good of the wider school community. If you need any further lateral flow tests for your child, then these are available from school. Please ask your child to collect them from their year team.

As always thank you for your ongoing understanding and support.

Yours faithfully

Mrs A O'Callaghan
Headteacher

s/a up-dated Covid procedures Oct 21

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