



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Jarrow
Reopening information for all parents and carers
September 2021



**These plans were drawn up on 1.9.2021, with up to date information and guidance from the DfE.
If guidance and information regarding national and local infection rates change, this may affect both the plan and information.**

How will classes be organised?

Pupils will work in their year groups but there is no longer the need for "Bubble Groups". This means that pupils will be able to work and play with other pupils from different year groups e.g. in the playground, mixed year group booster classes etc. All the pupils will be taught by their own class teacher, alongside support from Teaching Assistants, who can also work with other classes in the school.

Will the pupils and staff be required to socially distance in the classroom or in other areas of the school?

There will be no social distancing imposed between pupils within each classroom or in other areas of the school.

Pupils will remain in their own playground area i.e. KS1 and KS2, but will not be required to socially distance from other classes.

Whole school activities, such as liturgies, will now take place in the school hall in Key Stages initially.



How can I travel to school?

If possible, we are asking parents and pupils to walk or cycle to school. Cycles and scooters can be stored in the storage facilities, but please be mindful of the other parents collecting their pupils.

The Church car park will be open for use, but there are very limited spaces. The Community Centre car park is open at collection time.

Where do I drop off and pick up ?

We will cease using the one-way system from September, though families can still do this if they prefer. Entrance and exit to school grounds is via the gates near the Church Hall or Community Centre, with exiting via the gate opposite Hedworthfield Community Centre.

We have decided to keep the system of dropping pupils off at their designated gate any time between 8.45am-9.00am. Staff will be at the different entrances to receive pupils and direct them to their classes. If you have a message for your child's class teacher, this can be passed onto the member of staff at the gate.

We are now able to welcome parents into school, including in the morning. However, if your query or message is not urgent, please can you direct enquiries to our school email address enquiries@stjosephsjarrow.co.uk or via the school phone number, and we will ensure the message is passed on.

If you are going to be late for entrance to school, you must inform the school office. On arrival, your child will be taken to a safe 'holding' area inside school until a member of staff can be freed up to collect them. Continuous lateness can cause upset for your child.

Pupils will be dismissed from the exits marked on the '**Plan for Entrance & Dismissal of Pupils**' document. If you have siblings in different year groups, please collect your youngest child first and we will keep your oldest child in class until you are ready to collect.

If your child (Years 5 and 6 only) is walking home alone, please inform school via an email to the above address. We kindly ask parents of pupils in Year 5 who walked home last year to let us know again of their preferences.

What does my child need?

- Bottle of clear water from home (not juice), which can be filled before school and will be returned home at the end of the day. This will be kept on the pupil's table, or for EYFS and Year 1, in designated areas.
- School bag for storage of their school reading book.
- Pupils should not bring in their own stationery.
- Pupils should not bring in a mobile phone. Pupils in Years 5 and 6 who have been given permission to walk home can bring a mobile phone, but this will be stored in school and returned at the end of the school day.
- Pupils on packed lunches can bring a packed lunch box if required.
- Pupils can come to school in their PE Kit on their PE Days. If it is a colder day, they can come to school in joggers/sweatshirt etc, and then change to shorts before the PE lesson. We ask that all PE Kit is labelled with your child's full name.
- For pupils from Nursery to Year 1, can you please add spare underwear and socks in a named plastic bag in case of accidents?

Pupils are expected to wear normal school uniform, including appropriate footwear. We do accept trainers from this year, but these must be black only, and with no distinguishing marks.

In case of sunny weather, please apply sun-cream to your child prior to dropping them off (the Once-a-day type is recommended).

What will happen at lunchtime?

All pupils will receive a choice of hot meals every day, and will use the Meal Manager system to choose in the mornings. All pupils from Reception to Year 6 will eat their meals in the school hall.

Pupils who bring their own packed lunches will sit with their classmates in the hall.



What if my child becomes unwell?

Each class will continue to have a first aider they can call upon.

If pupils feel unwell, they must let their teacher know. If your child falls ill during the school day, we will contact you to collect your child immediately.

If your child displays any symptoms associated with COVID during school time, our Isolation Protocol will be implemented immediately (see below)

Does my child have to attend school?

All pupils are now expected to attend full-time, and attendance is mandatory.

Our usual attendance policies and procedures will be resumed.

Will there be breakfast and after school provision?

We will continue to provide our breakfast club (7.45-8.45am) which can be booked through the office.

We are providing after school clubs from September and further information will be shared.

**What will happen if there are increased COVID cases again?**

As with last year, we will respond appropriately to whatever Government advice is given. We have an 'Outbreak Management Plan' which will guide us on our actions should this happen, which includes immediate communication with families and the community.

What control measures will school put in place?**Ensure good hygiene for everyone.**

Hand hygiene: Frequent and thorough hand cleaning is now regular practice. We will continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly. This will be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

Respiratory hygiene: The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important and will continue to be shared with pupils.

Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.

We will continue to maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule. This includes regular cleaning of areas and equipment, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.

Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.

It is important to ensure school is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained. We will ensure there is a balance between the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature.

Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

When a pupil develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test, pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and should follow public health advice.

If a pupil is awaiting collection, they will be left in an isolation room until they are collected by an adult.

The household (including any siblings) should follow the PHE stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

Children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. This also means that the class as a whole does not need to isolate.

Staff will undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will be reviewed by the Government.