



ST JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH IN WALES HIGH SCHOOL

RETURN TO SCHOOL- September 2020

Dear parent(s)/carer(s)/pupils,

We are very much looking forward to seeing all our pupils back in school in September 2020 and meeting our new year 7 pupils. It has been a very different time for us and I would like to thank staff for all their work in supporting our pupils both emotionally and academically. I would also like to praise our pupils for the way that they have dealt with the situation and to thank families for their support and patience. Our distinctive Christian ethos has been very evident in the way that we have supported each other.

Please find below some facts for our pupils return in September 2020. We may need to change some of this as new information is released.

In order for us to get used to our new systems, we will have a staggered start for the first 2 weeks of term with all pupils back in school by 10th September 2020. The plan below indicates when each year group will return.

Plan for 1st 2 weeks:

Tues 1 Sept	Preparation day
Wed 2 Sept	Preparation day
Thurs 3 Sept	Yrs 7/11/13
Fri 4 Sept	Yrs 7/11/12/13
Mon 7 Sept	Yrs 7/10/11/12/13
Tues 8 Sept	Yrs 7/10/ 11/12/13
Wed 9 Sept	Yrs 7/8/10/11/12/13
Thurs 10 Sept	Whole school inc Yr 9
Fri 11 Sept	Whole school



Our aim is to balance and minimise risks of COVID-19 with providing a full educational experience. One way that we can do this is by reducing the number of contacts and maximising distancing. As a result, pupils will have a staggered break, lunch and end of day.

Pupils will be in '**contact groups**'. In KS3 this will be in classes; pupils will remain in the classroom and teachers will move to each classroom. In KS4 and KS5, the contact groups will be larger due to options and the contact group will be year groups. There will be 3 longer lessons/sessions each day (rather than our usual 5). We will also have a 1 way system in place. At KS3, there will be no practical work until October half term.

Pupils should bring in limited equipment, for instance lunch, bag, coat, stationery and should not share items. We are asking to bring a **packed lunch** for the first few weeks; those eligible for free school meals will be provided with a meal from the school canteen. School uniform should be worn but please do not hesitate to contact us if needed.

Pupil wellbeing is of paramount importance and pupils will be encouraged to seek support if they would like to talk to a member of staff.

We all need to **wash our hands** with running water and soap or use hand sanitizer upon entry to school, upon entry to classroom, after food, before and after the toilet, after touching objects, after physical activity, after changing rooms and before going home; good **hygiene** is essential. The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be important- tissues and bins need to be used; pupils should cough into their sleeve and encouraged not to touch face. An expectation is that clothes will be washed following a day in school.

No-one is to attend school if they have **signs of COVID-19** (a new continuous cough, high temperature, loss of taste or smell) or if they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 7 days; or if they live in a household with someone who has symptoms of COVID 19 or who has tested positive in COVID-19 in the past 14 days. Anyone displaying symptoms will be kept separate until collected and supervised at a distance of 2m. (for clinical advice dial 111Wales).

Anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate when making arrangements to be tested; if the test is negative the individual does not need to complete the 7 day isolation; anyone one who lives in the same household with anyone displaying COVID-19 symptoms or is on an extended household arrangement with someone displaying symptoms must stay at home for 14 days from the 1st day the 1st person became ill or until the outcome of the COVID-19 test is known. All must adhere to 'test, trace and protect.'

We are respectfully asking that parents(s)/carer(s) do not to congregate at the school entrance. Unfortunately, parent(s)/carer(s) or visitors are not permitted on site. However the school can be contacted for a telephone conversation. As usual, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns.

The school's 'Positive Behaviour' policy will need to be rigorously enforced. Good behaviour will be essential. Poor behaviour that puts the health of staff and other pupils in jeopardy may well be met with immediate exclusion. Deliberately coughing or spitting at someone will be deemed an 'assault' and may result in the permanent exclusion process. Pupils need to show a high level of maturity and



personal responsibility. Staff will be social distancing of 2m from each other and pupils and will remain at the front of the class.

Timing of the day:

Due to supervision needs, please can pupils not arrive in school before 8.25am

Arrival/hand cleansing	
Session 1 includes form prayers, announcements for pupils, 15 minute break and hand cleansing	8.40am
Session 2 inc 40 min lunch+ hand cleansing	11.15am
Session 3 inc hand cleansing +dismissal	1.55pm
End of day	2.55pm

Pupils will have double lessons to help reduce contacts and movement across the school. CVC lessons take place lessons 1 – 4. We usually run a 2 week timetable. The timetable will now take four weeks to complete but there will be no reduction in the total number of hours.

Times of break:

Dry break will be in designated areas on bottom yard; wet break will be in designated areas in our Hall; the sixth form will be in sixth form area. No food will be available from the canteen at break. These times and arrangements are subject to change.

Classes	Time
7F	9am
7A	
7M	9.15am
7I	
7L	9.30am
7Y	
8A1	9.45am
8A2	
8A3	10am
8A4	
8A5	10.15am
8A6	
9A1	10.30am
9A2	
9A3	10.45am
9A4	
9A5	11am
9A6	
Yr 10	10.45am
Yr 11	11am
Yr 12	10.30am
Yr 13	10.15am



Lunch times will be staggered and pupils are asked to bring a packed lunch. Those eligible for free school meals will have a lunch provided in school.

Rooming:

Yr 7	R 33/41/42/43/44/49	RE/maths/ALN
Yr 8	R 45/46/47/48/26/27	Maths/Music/Science -top floor
Yr 9	R 37/38/39/40/29/31	Languages/Music -top floor
Yr 10	See Timetable	Long corridor/1 st floor tower block
Yr 11	See timetable	Long corridor/top floor tower block
Yrs 12/13	WBQ + R3/4/5/6/7/8	Long corridor/identified room tower block

I hope that you can see that we are trying to keep everyone as safe as we possibly can and these procedures will hopefully alleviate some of your concerns and anxieties. Please read full guidance from RCT for further information.

We are looking forward to seeing our school community again in September 2020.

Stay safe everyone

God Bless

Dr S M Mitchell
HEADTEACHER



Please find below detailed information from RCT guidance:

Effective Hygiene

There are important actions that pupils, parents and staff can take during the coronavirus outbreak, to help prevent the spread of the virus. In school, preventing the spread of coronavirus involves dealing with direct transmission (for instance, when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing) and indirect transmission (via touching contaminated surfaces). For further information, please refer to: <https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/harp/infection-prevention-and-control/guidance/>

Pupils must regularly wash their hands or use hand sanitiser. They should be washed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Regular hand washing or use of hand sanitiser should include on arrival and when leaving the school and classroom; before and after handling food; before and after handling objects and equipment that may have been used by others; where there has been any physical contact; before and after the toilet and after people blow their nose, sneeze or cough. Hand sanitisers will also be provided in school. Pupils and staff should cough into their elbow. Staff and pupils, insofar as it is possible, should be encouraged not to touch their face, especially when using a tissue or elbow to cough.

Symptomatic Learners and Staff

- Under no circumstances should learners or staff attend schools/setting if they:
- feel unwell, have any of the four identified COVID-19 symptoms (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or loss of taste or smell) or they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 7 days;
- live in a household with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- Those showing symptoms during the school day should be kept separate until they can be collected and taken home. Ideally, this should be in a separate room, supervised at a distance of two metres (if 2 metres cannot be maintained then PPE should be used). If they need clinical advice, they (or a member of staff or their parent/carer) should go online to 111 Wales (or call 111 if they don't have internet access).

Anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19 should stay at home and begin to self-isolate for 7 days while making arrangements to be tested. If the test result is negative the individual with symptoms will not be required to complete the full 7 days self-isolation period. Anyone who lives with someone displaying COVID-19 symptoms, or is in an extended household arrangement with someone displaying symptoms must stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person became ill or until the outcome of the COVID-19 test is known.

Clinically Vulnerable Children and Young People 'Extremely vulnerable' or shielding learners

The advice on shielding has been updated. Hence this section is subject to change but is the most recent as of writing in July 2020:

Shielding is required when an individual is extremely vulnerable and at high risk of developing serious illness if they are exposed to COVID-19 because they have an underlying health conditions.



These individuals will have received a shielding letter from the Chief Medical Officer. Learners in this category must not be asked to attend schools or settings but should be supported to learn from home.

The advice for shielding is constantly being reviewed in the light of evolving evidence and the levels of infection in the community. It is anticipated that updated guidance on shielding will be published shortly. There are circumstances where children would be unable to attend school for health reasons irrespective of COVID-19 and they should be supported to learn from home if they are.

Clinically vulnerable learners at 'increased risk'

In the context of COVID-19, individuals at 'increased risk' are at a greater risk of severe illness from COVID-19. This category includes children and young people who have a range of chronic health conditions. Young people who are pregnant should stay away from school after 28 weeks' gestation.

If clinically, vulnerable learners do attend school, extra care must be taken to ensure these individuals, and those around them adhere to strict social distancing guidelines. In the case of learners, attendance must be with the full consent of parents/carers and their full agreement of any individual risk assessment and control measures.

If there is any doubt about whether their health condition means they should not be attending their school, further advice from a medical practitioner should be sought.

Living with a person who is either shielding or at increased risk

If a learner lives in a household with someone who is at increased risk or is "shielding", they should only attend a school or setting where they are strictly able to adhere to the social/physical distancing measures and the learner is able to understand and follow those instructions. This may not be possible for very young learners, and older learners without the capacity to adhere to the instructions on social and physical distancing. In those instances, it is not expected that learners attend school and they should be supported to learn at home.

This position should however be considered in the light of the most current advice around shielding.

Parents/carers and learners who are anxious about return to school and settings

All other learners must attend school. School will endeavour to support families and learners.

If parents/carers of learners with significant risk factors are concerned, they should contact school to discuss their concerns. Pupils of compulsory school age must be in school unless a statutory reason applies (for example, the pupil has been granted a leave of absence, is unable to attend because of sickness, is absent for a necessary religious observance, etc.).



Attendance

All learners should return to their school or setting in the autumn term unless they have a medical/health reason not to. This includes learners who are still shielding, if the medical advice at the time is that they should attend school. Those learners who have been advised that they no longer have the need to shield, or whose parents have chosen to send their child to school should be supported to attend without restriction, but encouraged to social distance and engage in regular hand washing. In the current climate, the Welsh Government advise against issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) or commencing proceedings for non-school attendance. This is under review by Welsh Government. Under no circumstances should learners attend schools if they:

- feel unwell, have any of the three identified COVID-19 symptoms (a new continuous cough, or a high temperature or loss of or change to their sense of taste or smell) or they have tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 7 days;
- live in a household or are part of an extended household with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

Families should notify their school if their child is unable to attend and explain the reason for the absence so that this can be coded correctly.

Schools and childcare settings should not require staff, children and learners to generally wear face coverings (please see exceptions below). Evidence suggests that changing habits, social distancing, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. Face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

Face Coverings

The Chief Medical Officer has been clear that there is no evidence to support the widespread wearing of non-medical face coverings in the community. However, on the 13.7.20 the First Minister announced that this would be required on public transport in the near future. Non-medical face coverings are recommended where social distancing cannot be maintained. Face coverings are not a replacement for far more effective measures such as social distancing and hand hygiene

Considering the well-being of learners is critical to any considerations around whether staff or older children wear face coverings. No one who may not be able to handle face coverings as directed (e.g. young children or those with special educational needs or disabilities) should wear them as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

Suspected Cases

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature or a loss of taste and smell in an education or childcare setting, they must be sent home and advised to follow the stay at home guidance:



<https://gov.wales/self-isolation-stay-home-guidance-households-possible-coronavirus>

In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital..

Confirmed Cases

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days.

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-07/operational-guidance-for-schools-and-settings-from-the-autumn-term.pdf>

All children and young people eligible to attend, and members of their households, will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to be tested in this scenario. Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms:

<https://gov.wales/self-isolation-stay-home-guidance-households-possible-coronavirus>

Supporting the Wellbeing of Learners

These challenging and uncertain times have undoubtedly placed children and parents/carers under significant pressure. Pupils are encouraged to express any worries and concerns they have so that they can be supported in a developmentally appropriate manner.

Resources are available to support children and young people's wellbeing.

- Anxiety: <https://hwb.gov.wales/go/agg9pn>
- Coronavirus and your well-being: <https://hwb.gov.wales/go/ffkbs1>
- Crisis: <https://hwb.gov.wales/go/4ypw1s>
- Keeping health: <https://hwb.gov.wales/go/nz95en>
- Loss: <https://hwb.gov.wales/go/lvy6hx>
- Low mood: <https://hwb.gov.wales/go/bi4vbc>

