



Sacred Heart School Coronavirus (COVID-19): Full Opening Handbook for Parents

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The purpose of this handbook

Firstly, we would like to thank you for your support and understanding during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We are now in a position where we are able to open the school to all of our pupils, in line with government advice.

This handbook has been created to provide you with details of the measures that are being put in place to ensure the safety of our school community as we fully open. The handbook aims to answer your questions and bring you up-to-speed with the various changes that have been implemented. We hope that the information within this handbook will reassure you that Sacred Heart School has taken all the necessary precautions in preparing to welcome all pupils back to school.

Useful contacts

All staff can be contacted through the school office.

We welcome any questions and will do our best to address any of your concerns. Our school office is open from 8:15am until 4:30pm and can be contacted via admin@sacredheart.barnetmail.net or 020 8445 3854 (opt 0). Please do not attend the school office in person unless absolutely necessary.

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1. Opening the school to all pupils

In line with the government's direction, and following a robust risk assessment process, we have decided to begin to welcome back all pupils from 3rd September 2020.

The government is relaxing its shielding guidelines from 1 August. If your child is classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, and has previously been advised to shield, you can now allow them to return to school.

The School will use staggered opening times: Monday to Friday from 8:40am until 3:30pm.

Please contact the school office as soon as possible if you have any queries regarding your child's attendance.

Risk assessment

The school has conducted a thorough risk assessment to mitigate the risks of opening fully during the coronavirus pandemic. Our risk assessment covers various aspects of the school premises, cleaning, staff availability, infection control and social distancing protocols, mental health and wellbeing, access to learning, and fire safety.

The risk assessment is a live document and will be updated as required. A copy of this risk assessment is available on the school website.

2. Protecting clinically vulnerable individuals



If your child is considered clinically vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable, was previously 'shielding', or lives with somebody who was shielding, they are now able to return to school.

If your child is considered clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable, you may wish to contact your child's GP to discuss whether additional safety measures need to be put in place to ensure it is safe for them to attend school.

If, after speaking with their GP, you decide that your child will need additional safety measures in place to attend school safely, please contact the head teacher via the school office to discuss these arrangements.

3. Attendance.

Attendance for pupils coming into school will be recorded as normal. We understand that you may be concerned about your child returning to school at this time, but please be assured that the school will do its utmost to keep your child safe. Please feel free to contact the school to discuss attendance and the safety measures in place. The government has announced that penalties for non-attendance will resume, but the school will only implement these as a last resort.

If, at any time, your child cannot attend school due to the necessity to self-isolate, whether this is because they are ill themselves or have been in close contact with someone who is, please let the school know as soon as possible on 020 8445 3854. You will not be penalised if your child cannot attend due to following clinical or public health advice to stay at home.



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The school will continue to notify social workers where children with a social worker do not attend school when they are expected to.

If your child does not attend when they are expected to and the school has not been notified, you will be contacted to find out why, in line with the school's safeguarding procedures. We are contacting parents to confirm that the emergency contact details we have on record are correct and to ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

4. Social distancing

To reduce the risk of transmitting the coronavirus in our school, social distancing measures will be implemented. We expect pupils to follow these rules; however, we understand that some pupils may be unable to fully understand social distancing principles, e.g. because of their age or needs. Staff will work with all pupils to ensure their safety and positively reinforce good social distancing behaviour.

Group arrangements

To maximise the effectiveness of social distancing with all staff and pupils attending school, we have made the decision to put pupils in set class bubbles for the majority of the day. This will be in addition to one teacher per class. Teaching assistants will be deployed as necessary.

- Class sizes will be back to the usual amount of no more than 30 pupils.
- Individuals within a bubble will not be permitted to mix with members of another bubble.
- Each bubble will have its own classrooms, learning areas and PE lessons.
- Year groups will have designated areas on the Playgrounds and their own equipment.
- Members of staff will minimise their close contact with pupils and other staff; however, staff will be able to move between bubbles in order to deliver the full curriculum.
- Desks and chairs in classrooms from Yr 2 upwards will be front-facing and placed as far apart as possible.
- Frequently-used equipment, e.g. pens, will be brought from home and left at school so that all staff and pupils have their own – sharing frequently-used equipment will not be permitted.
- Classroom resources, e.g. books, can be shared within bubbles, but should be cleaned frequently, e.g. at the end of each day.
- Communal resources, e.g. sports equipment, can be shared between bubbles if they can be thoroughly cleaned between uses.
- Pick-up and drop-off times will be staggered and determined by your child's allocated bubble.
- Lunchtimes and breaktimes will be staggered and will vary per bubble.
- Pupils will be kept within their bubbles when moving around the school, except to use the toilet.

We acknowledge that we will face some limitations to the practicality of these arrangements in certain circumstances and will work with all pupils to help remind them of the importance of staying within their bubbles. If you are concerned about

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any of the arrangements listed above, please contact the school as soon as possible to discuss any alternative arrangements.

Start and finish times

Pupils' start and finish times will be staggered in order for us to adhere to social distancing guidelines as much as possible. We recommend that pupils are dropped off or picked up by only one accompanying adult and that that adult wears a face covering.

We kindly ask that parents do not enter the school building or gather in groups on or outside of the school premises.

The tables below outline pupils' start and finish times, depending on their bubble, and where you should drop off or pick up your child, where relevant. Please note that times may differ for any before- and after-school clubs – further clarification is provided later in the [Before and after-school care](#) section of this handbook.

Pupil bubble	Start time	Location for drop-off and entering school
Foundation Stage	8:50am	Russell Road gates
Year 1	8:50am	Russell Road gates
Year 2	8:50am	Russell Road gates
KS2	8:40am	Main entrance gates to playground

Pupil bubble	Finish time	Location for pick-up and leaving school
Foundation Stage	3:30pm	Lower playground
Year 1	3:30pm	Lower playground
Year 2	3:30pm	Lower playground
KS2	3:20pm	Main playground

Moving around the school

Movement around the school will be restricted in most circumstances, to minimise the risk of bubbles mixing or coming into contact with one another. When moving around the school, pupils will be expected to remain within their bubbles except to use certain facilities, such as toilets.

The school has put in place a one-way system to further reduce the risk of contact between those in different bubbles.

5. Infection control

Combined with social distancing, strict infection control measures are an important aspect of keeping all staff and pupils safe and healthy in school. This means that we will be enforcing new rules to ensure that good hand and respiratory hygiene is consistently maintained.



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We expect pupils to follow these rules; however, we understand that some pupils may be unable to fully understand infection control principles, e.g. if they are very young or have difficulties with comprehension due to their needs. Staff will work with all pupils to ensure their safety and positively reinforce good infection control behaviour where necessary.

Here are some of the key measures that pupils will need to follow:

- Pupils will be instructed to wash their hands at various points throughout the day, including upon entering school, when they change rooms, before and after eating, before and after breaktimes, after using the toilet, and after coughing or sneezing.
- Pupils will wash their hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitiser – younger pupils and pupils with complex needs will be supervised when doing this.
- The school will enforce the 'catch it, kill it, bin it' approach to containing coughs and sneezes.
- Pupils who show symptoms associated with coronavirus will be sent home to self-isolate for at least 7 days.

We are also carrying out additional cleaning. Classrooms and learning areas will be cleaned during breaktimes and at the end of each day, and frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day. Communal areas, such as dining areas, will be cleaned between uses by different bubbles.

Staff will also be required to follow stringent infection control measures. Full details of the infection control measures in place can be found in the Infection Control Policy.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

The government has recommended that Primary School staff and pupils **do not need** to use PPE in school; however, staff will use PPE if a pupil shows symptoms of coronavirus and a distance of two metres cannot be maintained.

Staff will also wear PPE if they would normally wear it to carry out their role, e.g. where a child requires intimate care or is receiving first aid following an accident or injury.

Staff may choose to wear face coverings as they move around different areas of the school.

Bringing items into school

To minimise the risk of potentially transmitting infections between pupils' households and the school, we ask that pupils do not bring non-essential items from home into school with them – this includes footballs and other similar items. Pupils are able to take items from school, such as books, home with them to aid their education, provided that these items are properly cleaned before and after being in their homes. This equipment should be brought to school:



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- Essential medication and medical equipment
- Coats and other essential outdoor wear
- Spectacles and spectacle cases
- Packed lunches
- Stationery and books
- Washed PE kits
- Filled Water bottles

If your child needs to bring an item to school that is not listed above, please contact us as soon as possible to discuss alternative arrangements.

It will not be possible to drop off forgotten items (lunch boxes, water bottles etc.) at the office.

6. Procedure if a pupil becomes unwell on site

It is extremely important that all parents and pupils remain vigilant with regard to preventing, identifying and minimising the spread of coronavirus. We ask, therefore, that you **do not send your child to school if they have any of the following symptoms:**

- **A high temperature** – this means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back
- **A new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **A loss of, or change in, their normal sense of smell or taste** – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal



It is also important that you **do not send your child to school** if somebody in your household has tested positive for, or has symptoms of, coronavirus.



As a precaution, your child must not come into school for **14 days** after coronavirus has been identified in your household, whether confirmed or unconfirmed.

Please notify the school office via telephone and email as soon as possible if your child, or somebody in your household, is showing symptoms of coronavirus and your child cannot come into school. You may be advised to get your child tested for coronavirus and to notify the school of the result. See [below](#) for information on accessing a test.

If your child becomes unwell at school and shows symptoms of coronavirus, the school will take the following immediate actions:

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- Your child will be asked to self-isolate in school using a designated area.
- Your child will be supervised while waiting for collection, where required.
- You will be notified that your child must be picked up as soon as possible.
- You will be encouraged to have your child tested for coronavirus.
- You will be encouraged to engage with the NHS Test and Trace programme.
- Areas your child has occupied will be disinfected as soon as possible.



If your child is sent home from school to self-isolate, they **must not come into school** for at least 7 days.

If an individual in your child's class tests positive for coronavirus, the school will send the individual's close contacts home to self-isolate for 14 days. Close contacts include:

- Direct close contacts – anyone in face-to-face contact with the individual for any length of time, within 1 metre – this includes face-to-face conversation, unprotected (skin-to-skin) physical contact, or being coughed/sneezed on.
- Proximity contacts – anyone in extended close contact with the individual, within 1 to 2 metres for over 15 minutes.
- Travelling in a small vehicle, e.g. a car, with the individual.

We will notify you if this is the case and ask that you pick your child up from school as soon as possible. While pupils are awaiting collection, they will remain in their classroom and be able to access one toilet.

7. Access to testing

All pupils, and members of their households, will be able to access a test if they are displaying symptoms of coronavirus. If your child is displaying symptoms, we would strongly advise that you access a test.

There is information about how you can access a test on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/>. Where possible, we will provide a home testing kit for you to ensure that your child and other members of your household can easily access a test.

If your child is sent home from school with symptoms and subsequently takes a test, you must inform the school of the results as soon as possible. If the test is negative, your child can return to school when they feel better. If the test is positive, your household will need to continue the self-isolation period. We encourage you to inform the school immediately of test results.

You may also need to engage with the NHS Test and Trace programme, meaning that you need to be ready and willing to:

- Book a test if your child or another member of your household displays symptoms.
- Provide details of anyone your child has been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus or are asked by NHS Test and Trace.
- Allow your child to self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus symptoms or someone who tests positive.

8. Uniform



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We expect pupils to attend school in full uniform in the Autumn term. We will be upholding our School Uniform Policy as normal.

9. Food arrangements

Arrangements will be put in place to ensure mixing between bubbles is avoided during lunchtime. Pupils who require a school meal will collect their food from the kitchen at their designated time and will eat their lunch in the hall. Pupils who bring a packed lunch to school will eat their lunch in the hall or studio.

The school will continue to provide free school meals (FSM) for eligible pupils. If you require any further information about the provision of FSM, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

School dinners should be ordered in the usual way via "feeding hungry minds".

10. Transport

Pupils should walk or cycle to school or be dropped off by a member of their household where possible. Public transport should be avoided; however, if your child needs to use public transport to get to school, they should avoid peak times and follow guidelines on social distancing and wearing protective clothing, e.g. face masks.

11. The curriculum

Our focus is to support all pupils' health and wellbeing and to help them transition back into school life successfully.

To provide all pupils the opportunity to excel and engage with learning, the school will ensure the following:

- Increased outdoor learning, where possible
- Additional support for pupils who are at risk of falling behind their peers
- Continued support for pupils with SEND
- Provision and contingency plans for remote education

Lessons will work in a similar way to normal as far as possible; however, more focus will be placed on wellbeing, core subjects and ensuring pupils have a secure understanding of the content covered through remote learning during the lockdown period. An adequate amount of time will be spent getting pupils up-to-speed on material from the previous term that they may have missed due to partial school closures.

PE lessons will continue to ensure pupils get the exercise they need; however, activities within these lessons will be strictly non-contact and pupils will remain in small, consistent groups with other pupils from their bubble throughout the term.

Parents who are continuing to help educate their children at home will be continually supported by the school. Further information about learning from home is available below.



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12. Remote learning

Although all pupils can now return to school, we must make sure we are prepared to deliver education in any eventuality, including local lockdowns. We also need to have provision in place for pupils to learn remotely if they are sent home to self-isolate. For these reasons, we have created a contingency plan for remote education, should it be required. We understand that each family's circumstances and ability to access to learning material for their children differs, which is why we are committed to doing all we can to help pupils who are learning at home.

The school will continue to provide pupils with access to learning materials remotely via our previously used online learning portal (Seesaw). Details of when tasks are to be completed by will also be set here. These remote learning arrangements are in place to ensure that all pupils have access to high-quality education while they are at home. These arrangements will help all pupils to learn alongside their peers and prevent them struggling with lesson content when they return to school.

We advise all parents to make every effort to ensure that their child has access to and completes the learning materials provided. We understand that this in itself poses its own unique challenges and, therefore, encourage you to contact your child's teacher via email, or the head teacher via 020 8445 3854 if you are experiencing any problems.

13. Behaviour expectations

To ensure the school remains a safe place, we have made the decision to enforce additional rules with regards to social distancing and infection control. Pupils are expected to follow these rules. These rules include:

- Partaking in additional hand washing.
- Minimising close contact, where possible.
- Minimising contact with those outside of their bubble, where possible.
- Not lingering in corridors, stairwells and other communal places.
- Not spitting, biting, or displaying other behaviours that put others at risk.
- Putting soiled tissues in a bin.
- Queuing to use school facilities, where required.
- Keeping to their classroom seating plan.

Pupils who purposefully behave contrarily to these measures and put others at risk will be disciplined in line with our Behaviour Policy.

We understand, however, that these measures may be difficult to follow for some pupils, particularly if they are very young or experience difficulties with comprehension. The school will, therefore, consider each situation individually and work with pupils to educate them on the importance of social distancing and infection control measures and reward positive behaviour.

14. Safeguarding



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Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy was updated at the beginning of the lockdown period to account for a change in provision while the school was partially closed. This policy has been updated again to reflect that we are opening to all pupils. A copy of this policy is available on the school website.

We will need to know if your child has experienced any changes regarding their welfare, health and wellbeing that we need to be aware of as they return to school. We need to know this information so we can put the appropriate support in place for your family. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) will work to speak to all parents; however, if you need to report any changes, please contact the DSL directly.

15. SEND support

The SENCO, along with other key members of staff and external agencies, will continue to coordinate support for pupils with SEND.

Support for pupils with SEND who are at home will continue to be delivered as it was during the lockdown period. The SENCO will work with parents to identify support needs for pupils with SEND that are now returning to school.

If your child has an EHC plan, we will strive to deliver the provision set out in the plan; however, there may be cases where we need to adapt the provision. If we need to do this, we will speak to you directly.

If you have any questions about the support your child is receiving, please get in touch with the SENCO.

16. Wellbeing

One of our key priorities as we fully open the school is ensuring pupils are given the wellbeing support they need.

Pupils will be able to speak to pastoral staff face-to-face in school to discuss how they are feeling. These staff members will be on hand to support pupils themselves or to direct them to external support that may be required. We will also be distributing pupil surveys to assess how they feel about returning to the school site.

If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing or wish to discuss the support available in school or externally, please contact Mrs. Meehan via the school office.

17. Visitors on site

Visitors will only be allowed into any school buildings where it is absolutely necessary, e.g. for essential building works or to provide essential support to a pupil – this also applies to parents.

Parents who need to come into school will need to make an appointment first. Meetings will only be held with parents where absolutely necessary and at a safe distance.

18. Before- and after-school care



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The decision as to whether before- and after-school clubs will restart has been made based on an assessment of whether children are able to be safely distanced and in smaller groups, and whether sufficient staffing is available.

The following before- and after-school clubs will be restarted from 3rd September:

- Before school care (run by Non-Stop Action): 7:45am-8:40
- After school club (run by school): 3.30- 6:00

No emergency bookings will be taken for these clubs will be taken until further notice.

Other clubs will only be restarted when it is safe to do so. You will be informed of any changes.

19. School trips

The government has advised that school trips abroad do not go ahead until further notice – this may mean that school trips are delayed or cancelled. Overnight trips also cannot go ahead at this time, but non-overnight domestic trips can take place, provided that adequate safety measures can be followed.

The school is not currently planning or arranging any new school trips at this time.

20. Important documents

A number of school policies and procedures have been created and updated to reflect the provisions that are in place during the coronavirus pandemic, including the following:

- Risk Assessment for Full Opening in September
- Infection Control Policy
- Behavioural Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Bereavement Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy

Most of these documents can be found on the school website; however, if you cannot find what you are looking for, please contact the school office.

21. What can you do to help?

The support and understanding from our pupils' parents is vital when ensuring the school is a safe and happy environment. Helping your child understand the importance of infection control, good hygiene and social distancing is just one way you can help us minimise the risk of coronavirus transmission.

Please make sure you minimize the amount of time you spend on the school premises at the start and end of the day and avoid congregating at the gates, in the playground and in front of the hall.



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22. Reporting concerns

In line with government advice, our school is not currently handling new or existing complaints in line with our Complaints Procedures Policy. We remain, however, committed to maintaining open channels of communication with all parents.

Please raise any concerns in the first instance with your child's class teacher – contact details for staff are included in this document. The staff member will work with you to address your concerns and can escalate any concerns to the head teacher where required.

All concerns will be recorded on our Concerns Log, which will be kept in line with our Records Management Policy.

If your concern relates to the safeguarding of a child, you should contact the DSL, the LA or, where appropriate, the police as soon as possible.