



Cardinal Langley RC High School

'An Outstanding Catholic School' S48, March 2017

Rochdale Road, Middleton, Manchester, M24 2GL
T: 0161 643 4009 | E: admin@clrchs.co.uk | W: www.clrchs.co.uk
Headteacher: Mr A Bridson B.Sc. (Hons), MA (Education), NPQH

Wednesday 1st September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope you are all well and enjoying the summer break.

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our students back to school and have carefully considered the latest Government guidance to ensure that all necessary measures are in place for staff and students to return safely.

The priority at the start of term is to identify and isolate any positive cases to reduce the risk of transmission and all schools have been directed by the DfE to offer students two Covid-19 tests on-site at the start of term. It is expected that parents / carers will then continue to test students twice a week at home until at least the end of September.

If you have previously given consent and are happy for this on-site testing to continue, you do not need to complete a new form. If your son / daughter is new to school or you have not previously provided consent for testing and would like to do so, please complete the form [here](#).

A copy of our privacy notice can be found [here](#).

The Government guidance has also asked us to implement the following essential measures:

- Maintaining good hand hygiene through encouraging regular hand washing / use of sanitiser
- Encouraging good respiratory hygiene through the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it'
- Continue with our enhanced cleaning arrangements
- Maintaining good ventilation in occupied spaces
- Active engagement with NHS Test and Trace

The Government has produced detailed guidance for parents / carers which can be accessed [here](#).

Covid-19 rates remain high across Greater Manchester and we will continue to do whatever we can to protect our school community and hopefully avoid disruption to learning over the next academic year.

I am hopeful that the risk of virus transmission will fall over the coming weeks and the new routines outlined below will be regularly reviewed to take into account the latest information. I would be grateful if you would discuss these new arrangements with your son / daughter to help them prepare for the start of the new academic year.

I will send further updates in the next few weeks so that you have all the information you need to make sure the start of term goes as smoothly as possible.

Mr A Bridson
Headteacher





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Start of Term

We understand that many students will be anxious about the return to school but can be reassured that we will continue to have a range of safety measures in place to protect all in our community. If your son / daughter is worried about returning to school, please contact their Pastoral & Academic Leader.

All students will be offered a Covid-19 test on their first day back and a follow up test on Friday 10th September. The in school testing will continue to use the home test kits widely available and the majority of students will be familiar with the procedure. Parental consent is required for testing to take place in school and I encourage you to fill in the form using the link above if you have not yet done so. Following the second test, students will be given their test kit to bring home.

Students will return to school at 8.20am on the following days:

Monday 6 th September	Year 7 Transition (full day) & Year 12 Induction (finish at 12.45pm)
Tuesday 7 th September	All students

Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have Covid-19.

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, individuals should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have any Covid-19 symptoms.

Attendance

The Government has announced that attendance at school is compulsory from September. If your son or daughter has any coronavirus symptoms (high temperature, new persistent cough, loss of sense of taste or smell) then they must not attend school. Students will need to self-isolate for 10 days and arrange for a PCR test. Parents must inform us of the test result as soon as possible.

From Monday 16th August, unvaccinated young people up to the age of 18 years and 6 months and fully vaccinated adults, are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with Covid-19.

Those identified as a close contact will be informed by NHS Test and Trace that they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We strongly encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. There is no requirement to self-isolate while awaiting PCR test results and so individuals can attend their setting as usual.

Children and young people who attend an education or childcare setting and who have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend their setting as normal.





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Notification of Positive Cases

There is no longer a requirement for those under 18 to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact. Schools will no longer routinely undertake contact tracing as this is now the responsibility of NHS Test & Trace.

All schools are required to have an Outbreak Management Plan and will need to take action should certain thresholds be met. We will inform you if there is a suspected outbreak in your son / daughter's year group and the action we are taking.

Equipment

In order to reduce the risk of virus transmission, it is important to minimise the need for sharing of equipment. We expect all students to bring their own supply of standard school equipment (pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, highlighter, glue stick, calculator). Students may bring other items e.g. coloured pencils, if they wish.

Face Coverings

Guidance states that face coverings are no longer required in schools but they are expected on school buses and public transport. Staff and students can choose to wear face coverings in school and these are recommended in areas where social distancing cannot be maintained. School will maintain a small supply of face coverings for emergencies but will not routinely distribute these as was the case last year.

Curriculum

Schools are no longer recommended to use bubbles / zones and the full curriculum will be offered in specialist rooms. We will continue with the split break and lunch arrangements to limit the number of people in communal areas. Extra-curricular activities and school trips can now take place.

I understand that despite the high quality of home learning during lockdown, you will be anxious about the need for catching up on lost curriculum time. Please rest assured that we will be making sure all students have the support they need to get them back on track, whether this be emotionally or in their learning.

Covid-19 Vaccinations

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised that all 16 to 17 year-olds should be offered a first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, and the Government has accepted this advice. Vaccinations for 16 and 17 year-olds will be through the adult Covid-19 vaccination system supported, if required, by the GP led primary care system. All students aged 16 and above are encouraged to be vaccinated before the start of term.

As previously advised by JCVI, those 12 to 17 year-olds with specific underlying health conditions that put them at risk of severe Covid-19, should be offered two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Those 12 years and over who live with an immunosuppressed person, should also continue to be offered two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. This is to indirectly protect their immunosuppressed household contacts, who are at higher risk of serious disease from Covid-19 and may not generate a full immune response to vaccination.





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JCVI has also previously recommended an ongoing offer of vaccination to 17 year-olds within 3 months of their 18th birthday. This group will remain eligible for two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

The JCVI is not currently advising routine vaccination of children outside of these groups, but will keep their advice under review as more evidence becomes available on the use of Covid-19 vaccines in children and young people.

There is currently no indication that schools or colleges will be expected to play a role in the vaccination programme.

Catering Facilities

Our catering provider will be offering the usual hot and cold menu and I would like to remind you to top up student accounts using the ParentPay system. If you need to reset your username or password, then please email admin@clrchs.co.uk for support. Our cashless catering system uses contactless fobs and students must remember these to purchase items. Replacement fobs are charged at 70p each.

Water fountains are located around the school and we encourage students to bring a reusable bottle to reduce the need for single use plastic. Drinks can also be purchased from the canteen.

Cleaning & Hygiene

There will be an enhanced cleaning regime in place throughout the day and students will be expected to use the hand sanitiser stands at the entrance to school as well as in each classroom. Social distancing will be encouraged during social times and students will be expected to follow the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' procedure for good respiratory hygiene.

School Uniform

We expect students to follow our normal school uniform policy in September. Our uniform suppliers are now open and online ordering is available. Full details of our uniform requirements is available on our website.

We are proud of the consistently high quality and business-like appearance of our students and we are keen for these high standards to continue.

Please read our [Uniform Policy](#) and speak to your child's Progress & Academic Leader if you have any queries.

In order to avoid any issues at the start of term, we would like to remind you of the following:

- Shoes must be plain black leather: sports shoes and boots are not allowed
- Trousers must be plain black, tailored leg with a waist band and zip (no denim)
- Skirts must be knee length or longer, pleated or A-line, with a waist band
- Hair must be a natural colour with no extreme styles
- Students may wear a watch and one small pair of ear studs
- Accessories such as nail varnish, acrylic nails and false eye lashes are not allowed

We are aware of some supply issues with items of PE kit and have been reassured these will be resolved as quickly as possible.





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To enable us to offer the full curriculum in September we will return to the normal arrangement of students attending in school uniform and changing for their PE lessons.

School Transport

Public transport is safe for those who want to use it, with transport operators implementing enhanced cleaning regimes on board services and hand sanitiser dispensers still installed at stations and interchanges. If you plan to travel by public transport, please be sure to check routes and timetables before you set off.

You should be aware that duplicate bus services - which provided additional capacity on the bus network during lockdown - will not be in operation for this academic year. Meanwhile, TfGM's Yellow School Buses will continue to run without a pass system as they have done for the past year. A TfGM igo card is proof of age ID (needed for child tickets from age 11) and is also a smart card for buying tickets online, see tfgm.com/igo for details.

You can continue play your part in keeping yourself and others safe when using public transport or taxis and private hire vehicles, by following safe travel guidance. This includes:

- Wearing a face covering – they are still required on Metrolink services and inside stations and interchanges, unless you're under 11 or are exempt for another reason. The use of face coverings is also expected on bus, rail and taxi services
- Keeping windows open to maintain fresh air flow and ventilation
- Cleaning your hands frequently by washing with soap and water or using hand sanitiser
- Using contactless payment if possible
- Being kind and consider fellow passengers when travelling

If you do need to drive, please switch off your engine when waiting outside to reduce air pollution and, if possible, try parking further away and walking the last part of the journey. There are limited spaces in the front car park and please leave these for the use of vulnerable students who need them. If you park in the local area, please be considerate of our neighbours.

New cycling and walking routes have been popping up across Greater Manchester, making it safer and easier than ever to get about on foot or by bike – why not consider walking or cycling in September. This can be a great, healthy way to start your day – particularly for shorter trips.

Parent / Carer Evenings

We are maintaining our cautious approach to having large numbers of people on site and so will be continuing with virtual parent / carer evenings for at least the autumn term. A laptop loan scheme will be in operation to enable all families to participate.

Free School Meals

We appreciate that the pandemic has been a difficult time financially for many families and I encourage you to apply for free school meals if you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit. Details and an application form can be found at <http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/schools-and-education/Pages/free-school-meals.aspx>





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Key Dates

- Year 6 Open Evening – Thursday 30th September
- School Holiday – Friday 1st October
- Year 7 & Sixth Form Settling in Evening – Tuesday 5th October
- Year 11 Parents' Evening 1 – Wednesday 13th October
- Sixth Form Open Evening – Thursday 11th November
- Year 10 Parents' Evening – Thursday 25th November
- Staff Inset Day – Tuesday 4th January
- Year 11 Parents' Evening 2 – Thursday 10th February
- Year 9 Parents' Evening – Thursday 31st March
- Year 8 Parents' Evening – Wednesday 6th April
- Year 7 Parents' Evening – Wednesday 27th April
- Year 4 & 5 Open Evening – Thursday 30th June
- Staff Inset Day – Friday 1st July
- Key Stages 3 & 4 Awards Evening – Wednesday 20th July

Where can I find further information?

All of the parent updates and risk assessments are available on our website at <https://www.clrchs.co.uk/parent-updates-from-the-headteacher/>

