



# St Francis of Assisi Catholic College

13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

## **Covid Update**

It has been some time since I have had to write regarding any significant change to our practice due to Covid but after the Prime Ministers announcement on Tuesday I would like to outline the changes that are now necessary in school and remind everyone of how we must look to minimise risk.

As a Walsall school, our location dictates that we are now at a “high” alert level. For school that means that we remain open but have to make changes to our approach to face coverings at the start of the day on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020**.

As of tomorrow, the following is maintained or updated as categorised below:

### **Maintained**

Students must wear a face covering on transport, that is all of the bus services that are used travelling to and from school.

Students will remain in their bubble and must move around school responsibly, keeping to the left and only presenting in the classroom that they are timetabled for.

Face coverings remain optional on the yard.

There are no face coverings in classrooms for learning.

### **Updated**

In all indoor spaces where social distancing cannot be maintained, face coverings are to be worn.

This means that when students (Y7-Y13) are in corridors at lesson turn over or going to the toilet, a face covering is to be worn. Also, when students are in the canteen (unless sat eating) face coverings are compulsory. For Year 11, this also means face coverings are to be worn in the Sports Hall before school starts.

Students are also to wear face coverings in the Quad area, even though it is outside because use of the Quad always means coming from inside and returning inside and it is important that we reduce the touching or messing with facemasks too often.

Students must remove their face covering as they enter a classroom. This is a transient point so there can be no physical line but our approach is ***‘immediately upon entering the classroom’***.

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When exiting the classroom, again this is transient, so the face covering must be on ***'upon entering the corridor'***.

If any student is unable to wear a face covering we ask for medical evidence so that an exemption card may be issued and we encourage appropriate and re-usable rather than disposable face coverings. Where a disposable face covering is used students must be responsible for its disposal in a safe manner in the designated bin in the Bridge Hall.

From a civic duty point of view. Please be aware of the below if you live in a Local Covid High Alert Area (West Midlands)

- Birmingham
- Sandwell
- Solihull
- Wolverhampton
- Walsall

### Meeting friends and family

You must not meet people you don't live with in any indoor setting - whether at home or in a public place - unless they are part of your support or childcare bubble. You must not socialise in a group of more than six outside, including in a garden or other spaces like beaches or parks, and you must follow social distancing rules.

### Going to work

You should work at home if possible. If you cannot do this, you can return to your workplace but your employer must make arrangements for you to work safely.

### Schools and nurseries

Schools and nurseries remain open. In schools and colleges that teach Year 7 and above, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises.

### Leisure time

Pubs, bars and restaurants close at 22:00 BST. They are restricted to table service only. Face coverings must be worn by customers when they are not eating or drinking.

## Shopping

Shops are allowed to open. You must wear a face covering in shops, supermarkets and shopping centres.

## Other

You must wear a face covering on public transport, in taxis and private hire vehicles. You could be fined if you don't. Some people do not have to wear a face covering for age, health, or disability reasons.

Finally, please continue to be aware of when to self-isolate

Self-isolate immediately if:

- you have any symptoms of coronavirus (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)
- you've tested positive for coronavirus – this means you have coronavirus
- you live with someone who has symptoms or tested positive
- someone in your support bubble has symptoms or tested positive
- you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app
- you arrive in the UK from a country with a high coronavirus risk

God bless,

Luke Salkeld