



ST. MATTHEW'S
Roman Catholic High School

We Pray, We Care, We Achieve

25th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Measures to protect our school community

You may well be aware that at this present time our local community is currently facing an increased number of positive cases of Covid 19. This has been widely documented in the local media and we as a school continue to work hard to keep all our students and staff safe. We continue to remind our students and staff on a daily basis of the key messages around hygiene which are in line with the latest government guidance of 'Hands. Face. Space.'

- HANDS: All students and staff sanitise their hands each time they enter and leave a classroom. They are also actively encouraged to visit the toilet and wash their hands before break and lunchtime.
- FACE: All students and staff wear a mask in communal areas of the school including corridors and the dining room.
- SPACE: Social distancing is enforced as much as possible with teachers instructed to remain 2 metres away from students. Year groups continue to work in their own 'bubbles' and students do not mix with other year groups.

So far these measures have proved successful in keeping infection rates to a minimum in school, however in the last two weeks we have seen an increase in positive cases amongst students. Our internal track and trace has shown that there does not appear to be a direct link between these cases; they are generally isolated cases from a variety of year groups, across a wide range of form groups. This leads us to conclude that the most likely source of infection is outside of school, which is why it is most important that parents/carers continue to work with us in reminding our young people of the need to adhere to the current national lockdown rules. For your convenience these are included below.

Whilst I would stress that our infection rates are still very low, it is important that you are aware so you can remind your son/daughter of the need to be careful and adhere to the guidance, particularly outside of school. In this unique school year we continue to be guided by our principles of Health/Well-Being/Education and we appreciate the support of our parents and carers in helping us continue to keep our children safe.

Regards

Mr S Atkin
Deputy Headteacher

Current National Lockdown Rules

Help stop the spread of COVID-19 



Stay at home – only go out for specific reasons including childcare, education, work (if you cannot work from home), medical reasons, shopping for essential items, care for others, or to exercise outside.



Schools, universities and colleges remain **open**.
Some workplaces will stay **open** if people cannot work from home, including critical national infrastructure, construction and manufacturing.
Children can move between homes if their parents are separated.



Households are **not** allowed to mix with other people indoors, nor in private gardens (unless they are in your support bubble)
But, individuals can meet **one** person from outside their household in an outside public space.



Single adults living alone, or single parents whose children are under 18, can form a **support bubble** with one other household. You can go inside each other's homes and stay overnight. Once in a bubble with one household, you can't switch and start another with a different household.



Whenever you are out of your home, remember '**Hands. Face. Space**':
Hands – wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds
Face – wear a face covering over nose and mouth in indoor settings
Space – stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible.