

COVID Response News

Important updates for today...

Wearing masks on site

In line with public health guidance and in response to the escalating infection numbers in the local area, from tomorrow we will be enforcing that everyone walking onto the school site must wear a face mask. Parents dropping at the gate will not need to wear a mask but we must insist that no one waits at the gate ahead of time or after pupils have been dropped off. If you are early please wait in your car or away from the gate until the arrival or departure time for your bubble.

Pupils and staff can wear masks if they wish to but this is not currently an expectation.

Siblings and additional people must not come on site and where there is no other option for the single purpose of collecting a pupil, all those on site must wear masks over the age of 11.

This is a good time to remind everyone of the science behind the social distancing expectations:

- *COVID can be contracted from 15 minutes within 2 metres of another person, regardless of age.*
- *COVID can also be contracted face to face with another person in just 1 minute within 1 metre.*

Please understand that we will need to enforce this strictly for the safety of everyone and to keep school open for as long as possible. Many pupils are confident to walk up and down the driveways independently so this will also be encouraged where possible. This expectation is already in force at many local schools and is now a blanket policy for all special schools.

Parking

Finally, a gentle reminder about parking on Hazeloak Road. We have still received complaints from local residents about parents parking on the road. Please try to avoid parking on Hazeloak Road and always avoid mounting the curb to park as this reduces safe passing space on the pavements. This is also dangerous for our pupils. Parking opposite other cars prevents the movement of through traffic and at times minibuses have had to block driveways to get past.

Thanks for working with us to manage the new systems, we are really pleased with how effective and calm this is making the start to the day and how well pupils have adjusted to it. If you need to pass any information onto class staff, please email the office and we will arrange a callback. The systems are here to stay come rain or shine so please factor this into your school journeys. We can't let pupils in any earlier when it rains for example.

Stay safe.

Andy Simms

Head Teacher