

Minimising risk COVID19

Coronavirus is highly infectious. Although the majority of children only experience mild symptoms there are rare cases where it can be more serious in children. Children of course can carry the infection and can spread the virus even if they have no symptoms themselves. To avoid children catching the virus and bringing it home where parents might be more vulnerable we have as a school adopted a number of strategies. You may as a parent also be worried about your child because they have an underlying health condition. We therefore must protect and minimise the risk for your child as much as we can.

We need your support to ensure that these are successful and keep all in school safe. Please read the information below and help your child(ren) to understand what school will be like and why we need to work together in this way.

Students will have temperatures measured at the start of a day. Any students with a temperature above normal, cough or other COVID19 symptoms will be isolated, parents/carers contacted and will be asked to go home.

In order to minimise the risk to all in the school – staff and students – the strategies that follow will be put in place.

Arriving at and leaving school

- When arriving at school turning circle on the bus students will be asked to remain seated until a member of school staff indicates they should leave the bus.
- Students whose bus stops in the Market Place or other bus stop away from the turning circle should walk up to school but not in groups unless they are walking with members of their own household.
- If arriving at school by car or walking students should assemble in the Sports Hall.
- Students should then assemble in the Sports Hall where temperatures can be taken and instructions given for the day. When assembling in the Sports Hall students should not sit close to each other.
- At the end of the school day students should leave to catch their buses. Students will be released from classes so that they can walk sensibly to the usual area to catch their bus. Again students should walk away from others and get onto the bus ensuring that they are at a distance from other students.
- Bus companies will ensure that the seats students use are spaced out within the bus. Students must follow the guidance of the driver as to where to sit.

The bus company may refuse future travel for those students who do not sit where the driver has asked them to. As a school we will support the bus company with this adherence to guidance to ensure that all students are safe and levels of transmission reduced.

The school day

- Students will come into school on a rota basis. This will be clearly communicated to all students ahead of school opening. Timetables will be prepared for all students and these will be given to students, posted onto Class Charts and the JSTC website.
- Students will wear their school uniform (unless advised otherwise) and this should be washed between visits to ensure that any virus contamination is removed.
- The rota will enable students to experience all subjects they would normally have within their curriculum. Students would attend on the same school day(s) but the subjects offered would allow them to experience a week's curriculum over time.
- The rota would allow the school to operate much smaller classes in our biggest classrooms to ensure social distancing. We anticipate classes of up to 10 students.
- Desks are being set up in classes so that no student sits closer than 2m to another or their teacher. Students will not be able to leave their seat unless specifically directed by the teacher or their request to leave their seat is granted by the teacher. Without this we cannot establish and maintain social distancing.
- The canteen area will be accessed by a much reduced number of students on any given day. Social distancing in canteen queues will need to be maintained as well as sitting in a spaced manner.
- Changing rooms for PE will have identified areas where one student can safely change away from their peers and students must adhere to this.
- All students' exercise books should remain in school to avoid the potential for virus contamination either in school or the home. Students should come with their own equipment so that they do not need to borrow equipment from school or other students.
- Homework will continue to be set via Class Charts and many staff may choose to mark the work electronically with feedback given directly to the student via Class Charts. Again, this will reduce the potential for the transmission of the virus.
- Students will line up in clearly identified areas for each classroom that they have lessons in. These areas will be outside to prevent students gathering in corridor areas that are confined. If the weather is forecast to be rainy a coat with a hood would be sensible. Teachers will collect their students from these identified areas.
- No students will enter the building via corridors or hallways. All students will enter and leave classrooms via doors that lead directly outside wherever possible. Where this is not possible the teacher will signal when students are to leave and how. This process will ensure that all students are safe and not crowded together.
- Signs around school will remind students of the need to social distance from each other.
- Some lessons will be different to those that students may normally experience. Practical activities may be restricted or delivered in a different way to ensure that student interactions are restricted and controlled.

- Teachers are likely to be wearing forms of PPE. This is a precautionary measure as teachers are more vulnerable to the effects of the virus than the majority of children. Any member of staff who was at risk of having the virus would not be at school and would be sent to have a COVID19 test.

Progress and Learning

The impact on students' learning is important to all of the staff at JSTC but we need to balance the need to keep staff and students' safe with the need to enable students to make good progress in their learning.

JSTC staff will work hard to enable students to progress by

- Developing well planned lessons to address gaps in students' knowledge as a result of the lockdown
- Preparing work within the smaller classes to facilitate gains in understanding and progress
- Setting homework that supports and enhances the learning that has taken place within the taught lesson. It is vitally important that students complete this homework which will be designed to ensure all students can make gains in their learning.
- Communicating information about learning in progress to parents. Parents Evenings cannot take place in the normal way. However reporting via the Class Charts system will take place. Where there are specific concerns Progress teams and/or subject teachers will contact parents so that a programme of action can take place to address concerns linked to progress and learning.

Behaviour

In addition to this is vitally important that all students ***follow staff instructions at all times.*** Whilst we recognise that the vast majority of students would normally do this it is important that we raise this as a concern and state the school's response should this happen.

The most important factor is the ***safety of all students*** and therefore if ***a student does not follow a reasonable request from a member of staff unfortunately we will not be able to accommodate the student in school. The student will be asked to go home and will not be able to attend until the school has assurances from parents that this behaviour will not be experienced further.***

Our normal process of behaviour management ***will not*** be operative at this time as social distancing measures and staff availability will not be able to accommodate this.

Support from LSAs and other key staff

Many students receive valuable support from LSAs and other staff – such as pastoral staff in Progress teams. Whilst such staff will be in school the way that they work will need to change as a result of the risk of transmission of infection. Meetings with such staff are likely to be limited and cannot take place in confined offices. LSAs cannot work in close proximity to students for example. This may mean that support will need to be given in a different way which students may find more difficult. However, in the interests of safety this will not be relaxed until the situation changes. Please talk through this situation with your child.

Meetings with parents

Successful strategies for supporting students often require important meetings to take place with parents and a range of external providers. In order for these meetings to take place safely to support your child they will occur either over the telephone or via virtual online methods. Should you need to take place in such a meeting you will be given specific instructions as to how your meeting will take place, how you can take part and who in school can help you.

Here to help

Despite all of the difficulties and challenges that we face as a school we are still here to help your child and you as a family. We can be contacted easily via e-mail – with many questions being solved through the dedicated e-mail addresses for each year group's Progress Team. E-mail addresses for each team are on the website.

Please be aware that if you are contacting us by e-mail or telephone we will be very busy but we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

We understand that these difficult times can bring many questions and we are doing our best to support you and your child.

Please also understand that many of our staff, like you, are dealing with equally difficult challenges and may not be in school.

Stay safe.