

St. Gregory's Catholic High School

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Telephone: 01925 574888



Headteacher
Mr E McGlinchey BSc (Hons) NPQH & NPQEL

Our ref: EMc/SH/EL

1st February 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you and your families are all very well and looking forward to the Spring and away from the cold winter months. Spring is always a positive time when we can think about renewal and a fresh start.

I write to update you with St Gregory's response to the recent updates from the government on Covid-19 related guidance. It is likely that the following updates will be in place at St Gregory's up until 1st April 2022.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are not the most desirable item to use day to day, however they do minimise the spread of Covid-19 and there is no doubt that environments are safer when they are in use. Therefore, St Gregory's continue to **fully advise and encourage pupils to continue to wear face coverings** in busy areas such as corridors, the canteen spaces (when not eating) and when in collective worship or other large group gatherings.

We will **not** be sanctioning pupils who choose to not wear a face covering and we will not be distributing face coverings to those pupils who do not have their own. If you wish your child to wear a face covering, please send them to school with one that they can use. If your child wishes to wear a face covering, then this will be fully respected and welcomed. The same guidance applies to our staff members.

Visitors

We will continue to ask that visitors wear face coverings when visiting the school for meetings. There may be occasions when good space between all parties is possible and that it can be agreed that face coverings can be removed in the right conditions. That will be a discretionary decision for those hosting the meeting.

Respecting each other's personal space

As restrictions continue to ease, the St Gregory's community will continue to maintain a high level of respect towards each other in terms of personal space and contact with each other. At all times pupils should be mindful of this and apply good manners and etiquette. The teacher zones surrounding their desk area in classrooms will remain in place and pupils should not enter these zones.

Collective Worship

As of Monday 31st January, we have returned to face to face collective worship in the theatre after a period of time of this taking place virtually.

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'One family... inspired to learn.'

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St. Gregory's R.C. High School Appeal Trust. A REGISTERED CHARITY



Regular Testing

St Gregory's fully supports regular testing to identify viral loads and to ensure that further spread does not occur. We will supply testing kits for home use and we strongly encourage these to be used when made available.

Good Hygiene

We will continue to direct pupils to using hand sanitiser on entry to classrooms as this keeps good hygiene and standards and has been identified as good practice by our external advisors.

Attendance to school

The period of the pandemic notably saw attendance drop nationally. The government have stressed the importance of attendance returning to outstanding levels as the year progresses.

St Gregory's expect all pupils to have a minimum attendance rate of **97%** and we will soon publish our action plan for improving attendance that is not at the required level. This is to ensure that learning is not disrupted and that pupils maintain good routines of punctuality and attendance which will only benefit them going forwards.

Ventilation

Every classroom at St Gregory's has a detailed ventilation plan which has been scrutinised by our external advisors and is regularly monitored by our site team. We never require windows or doors to be opened for prolonged periods, this is only ever a short term requirement to allow good circulation of fresh air for 10/15 minute periods at any one time.

Circulation around the school building

We will maintain the circulation routes around our building as these reduce the amount of time required in the school building

I hope that this letter informs you well of how we aim to approach the next phase of Covid-19 guidance and I want to take this opportunity to thank you and our pupils for the quite simply outstanding engagement in all we have done to combat the pandemic, support health and safety and to keep pupils in school. Your support has enabled St Gregory's to maintain very positive attendance rates overall and low levels of infection.

I look forward to this positive journey continuing with your support and wish you very well for the coming weeks and months ahead.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr McGlinchey
Headteacher