

## **Medical Policy Addendum – COVID-19**

At Sacred Heart we aim to ensure that all pupils with medical conditions, are properly supported in school. So that they can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential.

It is important that parents feel confident that we will provide effective support for their child's medical condition and that pupils feel safe. We understand that long-term absences due to health problems affect a child's educational attainment, impact on their ability to integrate with their peers and effect their general wellbeing and emotional health. Should a medical condition lead to prolonged absence from school, we will work with parents and partnership agencies to arrange alternative provision, this will minimise the impact on the pupils' education.

Pupils with medical conditions are entitled to a full education and have the same rights of admission to school as other children. This means that no pupil with a medical condition should be denied admission or prevented from taking up a space in school because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made.

However, in line with our safeguarding duties, the Trust will ensure that pupils' health is not put at unnecessary risk from, for example infectious diseases such as COVID-19. The school therefore does not have to accept a child into school at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child or others.

The school will ensure that staff are trained properly and provide the support that pupils need. The school will ensure that staff are appropriately insured and are aware that they are insured to support pupils' in this way.

Staff must follow the procedures and instructions in this policy. The Headteacher will monitor and evaluate the implementation of this policy at Sacred Heart.

This policy will run in line with the current Medical policy as set out by the BWCAT and will be reviewed as government guidance is changed.

### **Children with ongoing medical conditions:**

We will work with children, families and health care professionals to create an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP). If you have a child in your class who you think should have an IHP please speak to Mrs Hogan.

### **Managing medicines in school:**

Medicines will only be accepted if they are:

- prescribed by a healthcare professional
- labelled for the child
- in the original container
- providing instructions on dosage and storage

Any medicines that need to be administered in school will require the member of staff to maintain social distancing and if this is not possible to wear PPE.

Children attending school during the pandemic must ensure that their medicine is brought to the lead adult of their bubble where it will be placed in a plastic wallet and stored safely away from others – medicines will be kept within the same room as the child requiring it.

In the event that a child needs their medication, where possible, it should be administered by a

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qualified first aider in one of the allocated medial suites. Should this not be possible then the child and supporting adult should adhere to social distancing unless full PPE is used.

Medicines which have not been prescribed (i.e. Calpol) will NOT be given in school. No medicines can be administered without a signed consent form.

Parents/carers may arrange to come and administer medication for their child if necessary. This must be arranged through the school office via a phone call or email. In the event that a parent/carer has arranged to administer medication, then they must be shown, whilst adhering to social distancing, to the most suitable area (this may be outside). Should the parent/carer feel it suitable to wear PPE then they will be invited to do so.

### **Effective infection protection and control:**

There are important actions that children and young people, their parents and those who work with them can take during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, to help prevent the spread of the virus.

At Sacred Heart, preventing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) involves dealing with direct transmission (for instance, when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing) and indirect transmission (via touching contaminated surfaces). A range of approaches and actions will be employed to do this. These can be seen as a hierarchy of controls that, when implemented, will create an inherently safer system, where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced. These include:

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does not attend schools
- cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times)
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings and face masks:

Wearing a face covering or face mask in school is not recommended and therefore at Sacred Heart staff will not be required to wear face coverings unless they are in close contact with a child who is displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. Face coverings (or any form of medical mask unless instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. Staff at St. Stephen's will be given direction in how to use facial coverings should they come into contact within someone displaying symptoms.

Posters will be displayed at key places where PPE is kept to further reinforce the correct way of donning and doffing equipment.

The majority of staff at Sacred Heart will not require PPE even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others.

### **Shielded and clinically vulnerable children and young people:**

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For the vast majority of children and young people, coronavirus (COVID-19) is a mild illness. Children and young people (0 to 18 years of age) who have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised to shield. We do not expect these children to be attending school, and they will continue to be supported at home as much as possible.

Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19). A small minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category – children who are not attending school will not be penalised as non-attendance during this pandemic is authorised by the Headteacher.

### **Shielded and clinically vulnerable adults:**

Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals are advised not to work outside the home. We are advising staff who are clinically extremely vulnerable (those with serious underlying health conditions which put them at very high risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19) and have been advised by their clinician or through a letter) to rigorously follow shielding measures in order to keep themselves safe.

Staff in this position have been advised not to attend work.

Clinically vulnerable individuals who are at higher risk of severe illness (for example, people with some pre-existing conditions) have been advised to take extra care in observing social distancing and will work from home where possible.

We endeavour to support this by asking staff to support remote education, carry out lesson planning or other roles which can be done from home.

If clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) individuals cannot work from home, they will be offered the safest available on-site roles, staying 2 metres away from others wherever possible, although the individual may choose to take on a role that does not allow for this distance if they prefer to do so. If they have to spend time within 2 metres of other people, we will carefully assess and discuss with them whether this involves an acceptable level of risk – this will be at the discretion of the Headteacher.

### **Living with a shielded or clinically vulnerable person:**

If a child, young person or a member of staff lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, they can attend school.

If a child, young person or staff member lives in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable, as set out in the COVID-19: guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable guidance, it is advised they only attend school if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and, in the case of children, they are able to understand and follow those instructions. This may not be possible for very young children and older children without the capacity to adhere to the instructions set out the school behaviour policy on social distancing. If stringent social distancing cannot be adhered to, we do not expect those individuals to attend. They will be supported to learn or work at home.

### **Class or group sizes:**

Early years and primary age children at St. Stephen's cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to school we have made reasonable adjustments to ensure the children in our care and adults working within the school setting are where possible:

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- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- frequently hand cleaning and have access to good respiratory hygiene practices
- are regularly cleaning their bubble environment
- minimising contact and mixing across bubbles

It is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, and we can achieve that and reduce transmission risk by ensuring children, young people and staff where possible, only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group stays away from other people and groups. We have done this by limited our bubble sizes to a maximum of 15 children and by making adjustments – clear to both children and adults- to the environment so that no bubbles can mix.

Agreed by the Academy Council Chair: Eddie Jones 9.06.20