

St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy, Palace Fields, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6AF

**Headteacher: Mr B Hickey** 

16 July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we prepare to close school for the summer holidays, it is important that there is clarification on expected standards and behaviour when all pupils return in September.

Our Behaviour Policy already covers much of what is expected within school, but there will be an addendum to the policy with specific expectations related to behaviour and health and safety as pupils return to school.

To be clear, schools must be as safe as possible to ensure that our pupils, our staff, and the wider school community of families beyond the school gate remain as safe as possible at this difficult time. To do this, the Government have issued guidance for schools and what protective measures should be in place.

The expectation is that all pupils returning to school will follow rules and guidance as given. These may change as we adjust to the return of more pupils. In addition, a daily reminder will be used each morning to emphasise our pupils' understanding of 'STM SAFE'

Social distancing – 2m apart at all times

Timetable – changes to usual school routine

More handwashing – for 20 seconds, use gel

- high temperature, new and continuous cough,
loss or change to sense of smell or taste

Alertness – limit contact with people, stay in your bubble,
be aware of what you do

Follow pathways – use one way system, stay in designated areas

Expectations – cooperative, supportive, responsible, safe

Behaviour that puts others at risk will not be tolerated. Should there be instances where a pupil deliberately uses COVID-19 risk of infection as a threat or actual event, for example deliberately coughing over someone, this will be treated as a serious breach of the school behaviour policy. Full sanctions may apply, up to and including permanent exclusion if this was so serious to merit it.





I am very aware that the vast majority of pupils will want to comply, and will in fact be apprehensive about returning to school in September. Making school safe really matters for everyone and your co-operation is appreciated.

The guidance from the Government is also clear that should anyone show any signs of COVID-19, that they will not remain on the school site.

*DfE Guidance* <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19</a>

## What to do if someone develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) whilst at an educational setting

If anyone develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms in an education setting they must be sent home and advised to follow the staying at home guidance. If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

So, to make clear and to reassure pupils, parents and carers, we will be implementing the Government recommended guidance to make our school as safe as possible. Anyone showing signs of Covid-19, will be dealt with as promptly as possible.

The standards of behaviour should reflect the needs of the whole school community. Everyone's support is necessary to make sure that our steps to manage this process are as effective as possible.

The addendum to the Behaviour Policy will be available in full on our website.

Many thanks for your continued support and understanding and I wish you and your families a safe summer.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Galletly,

**Deputy Headteacher**