



All Hallows Catholic School

Weybourne Road
Farnham
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GU9 9HF

Acting Headteacher : Mr Mark Baines

05th November 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian

Yesterday afternoon, the Department for Education published its [Guidance on Education and childcare settings: New National Restrictions from 5 November 2020](#). I wanted to share with you extracts from the Guidance, and then how this will affect your child at All Hallows.

Exception to National Restrictions:

Childcare or education is one of the exceptions that children, young people and parents and carers can leave their home for.

Face Coverings:

In schools where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. This was already the case for pupils in year 7 and above, and staff and visitors for those schools that were in areas where local alert level 'high' and 'very high'.

Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings and we expect adults and pupils to be sensitive to those needs.

Face coverings should also be worn by pupils in year 7 and above when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary school or college.

This is in line with the changes communicated in my letter on 01st November. To confirm, it is mandatory for:

- All staff and students will wear face coverings in the school building at all times, other than in offices and classrooms. This will include indoor communal areas such as corridors and the canteen.
- Students will be asked to put their face covering on prior to entering the building. They may be removed when students are outdoors but must be put on again when returning indoors.
- I would be very grateful if you could ensure that your child puts their face covering in their pocket or bag before leaving the house, ready to enter the school building. **Placing the mask in a clear plastic zip bag is the best method of keeping the mask clean when not in use.**

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- If any student does not have a face covering with them, then they must make their way immediately to Student Reception upon arrival at school where a disposable mask will be provided.
- There will be a few students who are exempt from wearing a face covering; please contact admin@allhallows.net if you believe that your child is exempt.
- It will continue to be the school's policy to not admit visitors to the school, unless by prior appointment. If you do need to visit the school, please wear a face covering at all times.
- [Advice on how to wear a face covering can be found here.](#)

Children

More evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from coronavirus (COVID-19), even for children with existing health conditions. Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. Parents should be advised to speak to their child's GP or specialist clinician if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.

Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place. Schools will need to make appropriate arrangements to enable them to continue their education at home.

Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education.

Parents of clinically extremely vulnerable children will be receiving a letter shortly confirming this advice.


Please contact the school at admin@allhallows.net if your child is Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, so we can support your child through this period of shielding.

Exams

The Prime Minister and Education Secretary have been clear that exams will go ahead next summer, as they are the fairest and most accurate way to measure a pupil's attainment. Pupils now have more time to prepare for their exams next year, as most AS, A levels and GCSEs will be held 3 weeks later to help address the disruption caused by the pandemic.

We will continue to prepare students for examinations, adapting our lessons to the needs of the students.

We are planning to complete Mock Examinations, [as advertised on the school calendar](#), however we will ensure that these are completed in line with the relevant Guidance at the time, whilst providing an opportunity for the students to experience a mock examination series and to demonstrate their learning.

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COVID Related Absence Quick Guide

For your reference, please refer to guide to the procedures for [COVID related absences on the school website](#). I hope this gives you some clarity on what to do in all scenarios.

Free School Meals:

For many families the additional measures and restrictions announced by the government will provide an additional financial strain, so I wanted to take the opportunity to remind families that financial support may be available for example through the provision of free school meals. [Please follow this link to our website where further details are available.](#)

Mental health and wellbeing support:

There are many agencies that offer different support for students, staff and parents mental health. Please see below for a small sample of the organisations that are out there to support all of us:

- [NHS – Every Mind Matters – Childrens Mental Health](#)
- [Mind – the Mental Health Charity](#)
- [Catholic Mental Health Project](#)

Finally, I ask for your **consideration** towards all members of our Family. There will be students, staff and parents who are classified as Clinically Vulnerable or Clinically Extremely Vulnerable who will find the current National Restrictions concerning to their physical health. Equally, the restrictions will challenge many people's mental health and wellbeing.

I ask that we all show **respect** to each other by adhering to the current Guidance to give all members of our community the confidence to know that they can study, work and enjoy being in a safe and happy school.

Yours faithfully



M A Baines
Acting Headteacher

