

Abbey Catholic Primary School Opening Plan - September 2020

- Updated 20th July



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1. Background:

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak in March 2020, schools across the UK, including Abbey Catholic Primary, were shut with the exception of children whose parents are on the Essential Worker List or children who are classed as vulnerable. When allowed to, school opened-up to a wider amount of pupils, giving everyone an opportunity to return to school partially before school closed for the Summer term.

The latest government guidance (2nd July) states: "Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of learning and children's future ability to learn, and therefore we need to ensure all pupils can return to school sooner rather than later. The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school. We know that school is a vital point of contact for public health and safeguarding services that are critical to the wellbeing of children and families.

There has been an acknowledgement that social distancing in schools is not possible and that schools should try to do this where possible. Instead a range of approaches and actions should be employed to do this.

These can be seen as a hierarchy of controls that, when implemented, creates 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 symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges
- 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 - promote 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)

The government and local authority recognise that all schools are different and have individual issues that need to be addressed at school level and have therefore allowed the school to use the guidance and make decisions that are unique to the setting and the school community.

Further thoughts around contact surfaces in the terms of books when marking was discussed and the issue resolved with an amended marking policy put in place that reduced the physical marking of books.

Staff were happy with guidance around PPE and that it would be provided for close up situations.

The Senior Leadership Team has formulated the following plan which will be reviewed regularly.

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2. The Provision:

School will reopen to all children from 3rd September 2020. It will no longer be at the discretion of parents – all children will be expected to attend school full time.

The national curriculum provision will be resumed, with full entitlement being provided for.

3. Groupings:

Bubbles will be formed of whole year groups. The children will only mix with the adults and children in their bubble throughout the day and will not be able play with other children on the playground as this will be staggered and zoned. Lunch will be eaten with the bubble group in the hall (or classroom for Y6), with cleaning taking place between each sitting, lunch time will be on a rolling programme to allow one bubble at a time in the hall.

Reception will be grouped together in the normal unit and will be as one. No attempt will be made to socially distance this group. Items that are difficult to clean will be removed and provision scaled down. This will make it easier to clean toys and equipment at the end of each day. Children will have open access to the toilets and outside area – this will be encouraged.

All other groups will be based in their usual classrooms for the majority of the time, unless they are timetabled to be taught elsewhere (PE, for example).

4. Curriculum:

The National Curriculum entitlement will be re-instated from September 2020.

5. Drop off and Pick Up:

Information regarding each group's drop off and pick up points have been shared with parents via a newsletter through Parentmail.

Drop off			
	08.40	08.50	09.00
Staff Car Park	Year 6		
Children's entrance	REC	Year 5	Year 1
Bottom Gate	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4

Pick up (collection from relevant playground but using these gates)			
	14.55	15.05	15.15
Staff Car Park	Year 6		
Children's entrance	REC	Year 5	Year 1
Bottom Gate	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4

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Morning Drop Off, year groups have been allocated specific drop off times for year groups. If a parent needs to drop off or pick up more than one child, please drop off and collect all children at the earliest timetabled time. Only one person should be dropping and picking up children as this will support social distancing. The only exception would be if they have a child with them of primary school age or younger. If waiting for children, please keep 1m apart and move away from any thoroughfares. No one experiencing Coronavirus symptoms should come onto the site.

At each drop off and pickup point, hand sanitiser will be available. Children will clean their hands using it both when they enter and leave school. There will be a member of staff there to supervise and welcome the children.

6. Sickness:

If a child or staff member has symptoms of Coronavirus they must not come to school. Staff will inform the headteacher and testing will be arranged. Anyone who develops symptoms must not come to school for 7 days unless they have been tested and the results of the test are negative. If a child or staff member develops symptoms in school they must leave the site as quickly as possible avoiding contact with others. Children will be taken to the Newman Room whilst their parents are telephoned to pick them up. They will be supervised by staff, from their bubble, who will wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The room will be thoroughly cleaned by that staff member when the child is picked up. If a staff member becomes unwell, a test will be arranged by the headteacher. Anyone who has developed symptoms in school must stay at home for 7 days unless tested and found to be negative. If there is a confirmed case of Coronavirus, all adults and children within that bubble will be sent home for 14 days to self-isolate. Should there be a further confirmed case, the school will seek support and guidance from Public Health England 03442250562 (opt 2). A deep clean will take place.

7. PPE (Personal Protective Equipment):

The government guidance is clear that PPE should only be worn in specific circumstances in school. Staff can wear it in situations they feel require it, this includes close and intimate care. PPE will also be worn by any staff member supervising a child who has symptoms of Coronavirus whilst they wait to be picked up by a parent. It is important to note that should a child have an accident, for example on the playground, they will have first aid administered to them as usual (with a staff member wearing PPE). It has been acknowledged by the World Health Organisation that face masks do reduce the spread of Covid 19, staff may wear the full face visor coverings if they choose to do so.

8. School Uniform and equipment:

Best practice, after a day in school, would be for the children to put the clothes they have been wearing straight into the wash and have a shower. Children will only need to bring a water bottle and coat every day. Nothing else should be sent into school with them. Phonics reading books will be sent home and rotated to ensure that when books are returned they remain untouched for a period of a week.

9. Lunchtimes & Playtimes:

These will be staggered so a smaller number of pupils are on the playground. The children will only be able to play with those children in their bubbles and will be in zones on the playground supervised by a staff member at all times. Lunch will be eaten in the school hall - with the exception

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of Y6 who will eat in their classrooms. If a child has a packed lunch, we ask that lunch is sent in a disposable bag so that it can be disposed of each day.

	Lunch Hall slot	Playground Lunch Slot
Reception	A 12:30 – 13:15	13:15-13:30 – Reception
Year 1	B 12:45-13:15	13:15-13:30 – Closest to Y1
Year 2	B 11:45-12:15	12:15-12:30 – Corner
Year 3	A 12:00-12:30	12:30-12:45 – Football Pitch
Year 4	B 12:15-12:45	12:45 – 13:00 – Corner
Year 5	A 11:30-12:00	12:00-12:15 – Football Pitch
Year 6	Classrooms – 13:00-13:30	12:45-13:00 – Staff Carpark

10. Restrictions for Staff:

Staff will only be allowed into the classrooms they are assigned and must not enter another room. The Staffroom will have strict social distancing of 1m, there are to be a maximum of five people in staff room at any time. The School Office will only be accessed by Office Staff, the Deputy Headteacher and Headteacher. Should a staff member have a query with the office, please go to the window, attract attention then stand back. Registers will be emailed to the office. Messages for the office and for staff will also be emailed, thus reducing any unnecessary movement around school. There will be wipes in staff toilets and we ask that staff wipe down contact areas such as the toilet seat and flush after use.

11. Track & Trace App:

Once available, all staff members will be encouraged to download the Track & Trace App, once it is operational. The Safeguarding Policy has been amended to all staff members to keep their phones on their person during the school day, however, phones must not be used. This will support the safety of all. If the app detects a case of the virus, sickness procedures will apply with relevant staff members sent home and not being allowed back on site until tested. As the children in that bubble will also have been compromised, they will need to self-isolate with their families for 14 days. Should there be a further confirmed case, the school will seek support and guidance from Public Health England 03442250562 (opt 2). In addition, testing will be provided to children and parents. We are awaiting further clarity on this matter from the government.

12. Visitors to School:

Only essential visitors to school will be allowed on site. An example of an essential visitor would be a contractor completing the weekly water tests which are statutory and, in not doing them, would potentially affect the health of the school community. Parents will only be able to come onto the site to drop off and pickup children. Any concerns that need to be discussed with a staff member need to be done via telephone as this will help to ensure the safety of both staff and parents.

13. School Policies:

Key school policies such as Behaviour and Safeguarding Policies will be reviewed and amended (if required) as an interim measure whilst there are the current restrictions and will be communicated effectively to either staff or children.

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14. Bereavement List:

Many families across the globe have lost loved ones and friends. This may well be the case in our school community. We are asking parents to let us know via email to Mrs Waters at l.waters@abbeyrc.bham.sch.uk if this is the case as it may well be affecting a child and we need to know so that we can monitor them and appropriately support them. This is also the case if a child remains at home and will support us to manage their safe return to school.

15. Local Lockdown

Should a local lockdown take place, guidelines would be adhered to and home learning and keyworker provision would be provided as deemed necessary taking local restrictions into account.

16. Review:

The Governing Body, in consultation with the Headteacher, will keep the plan under constant review considering changes in government guidance, views of our community, good practise in other settings and learning from what is a new situation for us all.

Any changes will be communicated to parents.

Those of us who have not been affected in terms of our health can thank God for His blessings whilst remaining sensitive to the plight of others.