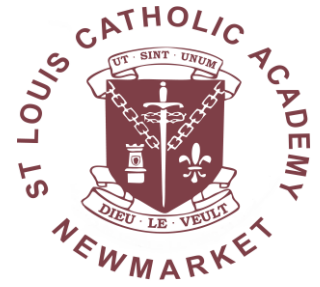




St. Louis Catholic Academy
Fordham Road
Newmarket
Suffolk
CB8 7AA

Head of School: Mr Nick Kerin
Executive Headteacher: Mrs Clare Clark

01638 662719



19th May 2020

Dear Parents

Anticipated Reopening of School to more Pupils from 3rd June 2020

Thank you for responding to our initial parent survey last week. Based on the results of this survey, we have completed a risk assessment of our school buildings, considering the potential number of children, space and staff available. In total and based on Government recommendations on class space, we have capacity for far fewer than normal: 120 children in groups of no more than 10.

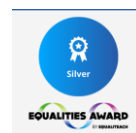
The Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Trust has approved our planned list of controls to substantially reduce the risk of transmission of infection. These controls can be summarised as follows:

- children/staff who are unwell with symptoms of coronavirus, or who have someone in their household who does, may not attend school;
- increased hand cleaning (additional facilities and timetabled routines will be in place);
- regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces throughout the day and the removal of unnecessary or hand to clean objects;
- minimising contact and mixing between people in school by altering classroom layout to increase spacing, decrease class sizes and staggering the timetabled school day (including start, end, playtimes, lunchtimes etc). Children and staff will be in smaller “bubbles” that do not mix during the day; once a group is full, any other children will join another group. For these reasons, it cannot be guaranteed that children will necessarily be with all their friends or their class teacher.

These control measures do not include 2m social distancing, as “early years and primary age pupils cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff” (DfE 12th May 2020). But in order to minimise contact, children will only mix in a small consistent group which stays away from other people and groups. Older children, working at their own desks, will be spaced apart as far as possible. Please find attached to this letter further information and clarification of the guidance from the Trust.

We are putting in place a risk assessment plan, which follows government guidance for implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings. This considers classroom sizes, site layout and staff availability. There is a directed priority to the order of pupil groups we must try and to accommodate:

1. Children of key workers.
2. Children with Education, Health and Care Plans (or those with plans pending).
3. Children in Early Years – Nursery then Reception.
4. Children in Year 1.
5. Children in Year 6.



We are required to keep the groups of children small so will have limited spaces. It is very important that the groups are consistent and only those who are able to commit to their children taking up **full-time** places do so. The reasons for requiring parents to take up places for their children on a full-time basis only are:

1. To enable the groups of children and their allocated adult/s to remain consistent throughout the week, creating a “bubble” approach recommended by scientists to keep the number of interactions to a minimum.
2. To enable the curriculum, including guided groups, to be taught consistently.
3. So that other children have some stability in their learning or play group.
4. So that the kitchen staff can order and plan school lunches accurately.

If your child is in one or more of the six pupil groups listed above, you now need to decide whether you wish them to attend full-time from the 3rd June and respond via the link below. If your child is currently attending school, you must still make this application.

<https://forms.gle/qYdUvEBguEu3UyY27>

This a yes/no reply and must be submitted by 3pm on Wednesday 20th May 2020.

Due to the limited number of pupil places we have available this information is essential. We can then finalise our planning allowing offer of a space to the widest number of year groups in priority order above. Please be aware completion of the survey with a “yes” does not guarantee we will be able to offer a place. This decision will be based on the current maximum school capacity of 120 in the priority order listed above. We will then then be in touch with you to confirm allocation of places by Thursday 21st May.

Thank you for your help, support and understanding. You are all doing such an amazing job at home right now. It is so sad that we’re not able to have everyone back at school, but we can support everyone as much as we can so that those who will benefit most can return to school and everyone else can continue their learning at home.

Best wishes

Clare Clark
Executive Headteacher