

Our Ref : SPP/jet
26 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you to clarify our position with regards our response to the current COVID variant and its impact upon our school.

You may well be aware that 27 January is the date from when the Government has relaxed the rules on mask wearing in communal areas.

Based on the current situation in our school and following guidance and advice from both the Director of Education and Director of Public Health for Sheffield we continue to err on the side of caution and continue with measures to minimise risk to our school community. One of these measures will include the continued expectation that we wear masks in communal areas in school. This measure, along with the others in place, will be reviewed after the half term break as we continue to monitor levels of infection.

Our priority is, and has always been, to protect the health and quality of education for our students. We have a number of students and staff who are clinically vulnerable and understandably anxious about safety and protection in school. As I write to you we are still impacted significantly by both staff and student absence. Yesterday we were in a position where we had to combine classes due to staff shortage. I know of other schools in the city who have had to send whole year groups home because of staff absence. Despite what appears to be a declining picture nationally, in our area we are still battling with high infection rates. For the period 15 to 21 January the infection rate in Sheffield was 1,018 per 100,000 which is above the national average. The current rates of infection are considerably higher than last year when schools were actually closed.

To provide you with the current picture from our school, this week so far we have had notification of 30 students who have tested positive for COVID. These numbers are in addition to those who are currently absent from testing positive last week. This morning, as I write to you, I am aware of 7 staff absences due to COVID. In short, we continue to work under challenging conditions and require our whole school community to remain vigilant in order to protect one another and ensure our students' education is not disrupted further.

Once again, I ask for, and rely upon, your support in ensuring your son or daughter brings a mask to school and wears their mask in communal areas. I have been appreciative of how well students have complied with our requests thus far although a number of students are turning up to school with no mask which does cause us problems. I fully appreciate this is not a popular measure for many of our students and families and we all look forward to being in a position where we do not have to wear masks as we go about our daily business. Unfortunately, at All Saints, we are not yet in that position. Can I also remind you that all students should ensure they are using lateral flow tests at least twice a week.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and we will inform you of any developments as we review our current measures in a couple of weeks' time.

Yours sincerely



S P Pender
Headteacher