



Dear Parents and Carers

14th October 2020

RE: New COVID-19 restrictions

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your supportive response to keeping Severndale environments safe for our pupils and staff. As parents/ carers you have shown vigilance and consideration for whether to send your child/ young person into school if they are unwell and we feel that this has had a positive impact. Please find attached a poster which may further support your decision making as we move through the next phase of the pandemic.

Today, government have introduced a new tiered system of local lockdown measures. We are aware that although Shropshire have maintained relatively low COVID-19 transmission rates, the county is surrounded by areas with higher rates.

To avoid the potential for school closure, partial closure, or closure of zones/bubbles, we have made the decision to implement a cautious approach and introduce the following measures, in addition to the existing measures set out in our evolving COVID-19 risk assessment:

- 1) Face coverings to be worn by adults, children and young people in all public/ transitional areas such as reception areas and corridors. It is **NOT** expected that all staff or children/ young people will be able to wear a face covering safely, so this will not be enforced in these instances, particularly for our primary aged children (below the age of 12) and for those not able to understand the concept of the use and care of face coverings (particularly for some young people in the Semi-formal and Pre-formal departments).

However, where possible, we will expect staff and pupils to bring in and use appropriate face coverings from home. We would appreciate it if face coverings were unbranded, non-offensive in their presentation, and labelled.

- 2) All meetings will follow the rule of 6, or smaller as appropriate to the room size, to ensure strict 2m social distancing if it is deemed essential/ practicable to meet face to face. Where possible, meetings will be held on Zoom.
- 3) To avoid the potential for school closure in the circumstance that senior leaders are required to self-isolate at the same time, the senior leadership team will maintain 2m social distancing and wear appropriate PPE/ face covering when crossing zones and when in classrooms.

Please note that many people within school already practice these measures, however we aim to be able to fully implement these, as a school, by next Monday 19 October 2020.

We hope that you understand the reasons for why we are building in these additional precautions and thank you in advance for your help and support.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you would like to discuss any aspect of this further.

Kind regards

Sabrina Hobbs
Principal