

New Siblands Primary
Gillingstool
Thornbury
South Gloucestershire
BS35 2EG
Tel. 01454 866754



Valuing every child through fostering independence,
inclusion, trust, respect and support

New Siblands Secondary
Easton Hill Road
Thornbury
South Gloucestershire
BS35 2JU
Tel. 01454 862888

Headteacher: Ms Carrie Osmond

19th May 2021

RE: COVID updates

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am writing to update you on some small changes that we will make to our operational guidance in the light of the easing of COVID restrictions that took place on Monday 17th.

Face coverings

As you will know the government updated advice about face coverings in school, with it no longer being a requirement that these are worn by pupils and staff. At New Siblands this means we do not need to change our approach, which was already that the wearing of face coverings in classrooms was optional. On the secondary site, face coverings only need to be worn in shared spaces where social distancing is not possible. The continued use of bubbles and the size of our buildings mean that there is very limited sharing of space.

Any pupil or member of staff who wishes to wear a face covering may do so at any time.

Trips

We are still not permitting most off-site trips. However, limited outdoor walks in the local area, ensuring national guidance for social distancing is adhered to will now be introduced. Teachers will inform parents if they plan to introduce these.

Visitors

Visitors to site are still being kept to a minimum. Permitted visitors must adhere to COVID safety requirements. We have now recommenced essential health clinics e.g. orthotics, eye clinics etc.

We will allow one 'out of hours' visit for new pupils who have a confirmed place with us for September.

Our P16 leavers may be supported to visit their new setting in accordance with the settings COVID safety requirements. This is usually an 'out of hours' tour.

Meetings with parents and carers e.g. parents' evenings and annual reviews will continue to take place virtually.

A member of



DfE School Number 803/7031
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We will await further advice and guidance for schools after the potential lifting of all national restrictions on June 21st and our operational plan will be reviewed accordingly. One of the key issues that working in bubbles has raised here is the effect it has had on our capacity to run hydrotherapy and swimming sessions. We are making plans for the re-opening of the pool, which are subject to government advice and pool safety checks (which are currently underway). I will update you as soon as we are able to review our current practice.

Even with some light at the end of the tunnel, COVID safety remains a high priority at New Siblands. Thank you for your support as we continue to work together to keep your children as safe as possible.

Best wishes,

Carrie Osmond

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