



St. Joseph's RC High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Joseff Sant

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Headteacher/Pennaeth: Mrs J Jarrett BA(Hons) M.A NPQH

11 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Initial plans to reopen school 29 June -24 July 2020

Firstly, I hope that you and your families are well and safe. As always, I thank you for your continued support. As a school community, we really do appreciate it.

Today, I am writing to broadly outline the process by which we are going to organise our phased return to school. I know that some of you will feel apprehensive. Please let me assure you that the health and wellbeing of your child and the staff at St Joseph's is – as always – my primary concern. We have been working hard to plan for the return of your child and to put the appropriate safeguards in place. We will be adhering to the [Welsh Government guidance](#) published yesterday. This guidance has been produced to support schools to open safely. It covers measures we can undertake to:

- plan and organise provision: including determining capacity and checklists for taking the next steps
- support the health and well-being of staff and students; helping to keep people safe
- manage their facilities and logistical arrangements: including buildings, resources, cleaning and transport.

Regarding the last point on transport, Newport City Council have published the following statement: ***'The local authority is working with passenger transport providers to develop safe transport for a prioritised group of pupils with complex needs and disabilities who cannot find alternative methods of transport.'***

Due to unprecedented Covid related issues, mainstream pupil transport will not be available when schools partially re-open on June 29th. The local authority is working to secure safe pupil transport for September and will notify schools and parents when there is more information'.

Once you have read this letter, **please complete the survey** that confirms your decision as to whether your child will be returning to school the week beginning Monday 29 June. The survey will close **10am Monday 15 June**. The week beginning June 22, I will be in touch with those families who have declared their intention to send their children back to school this term.

At the present time, there is no statutory requirement for you to send your child to school. However, if you choose to send them, they will be in a pre-set bubble and will attend school at a specific time, on a specific day, once a week. It will not be possible to change the time, groups or days. Groups will be carefully organised to minimise social contact and to maximise access to key curriculum content.

'Serving God Through Learning Together'

'Yn gwasanaethu Duw trwy ddysgu gyda'n gilydd'

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Year groups will be allocated set days:

Year 7	Monday
Year 8	Tuesday
Year 9	Wednesday
Year 10	Thursday
Year 11,12 and 13	Friday

To enable safe entry and exit from the site and frequent focused cleaning, start times and finish times will be staggered:

Bubble A	8.30am – 11.30am
Bubble B	9.00am – 12.00pm
Bubble C	9.30am – 12.30pm

On your child's allocated day, they will experience 3 one-hour sessions which will include a wellbeing session followed by content delivered by subject specialists.

To implement this strategy, we will be planning with staff to open the school in a controlled and measured way as follows:

- Home schooling support will be slightly different on **Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 June**. Lessons will be on to Google Classroom as usual, however, for these two days there will be no staff overseeing the lessons. I ask that, where possible, you keep your child in the same routine over these two days. This is to enable 2 days of on-site staff preparation and to cover with staff the school's full risk assessment. As you will be aware, the staff will need to be brought in within social distancing measures, which in turn leads to more meetings and time for our preparation.
- **Wednesday 24 June** our online provision will resume as normal, with staff once again supporting the learning of online lessons.
- **Monday 29 June** a bespoke timetable of face to face sessions to begin plus continuation of our distance learning.

Our distance learning through Google Classroom will continue to be the main focus for learning. The face to face sessions we will be providing are to complement and support this learning, not to replace it. All pupils should continue with their distance learning through Google Classroom.

As I am sure you can appreciate, reopening the school for face to face sessions takes a great deal of organisation and planning. Our core purpose will be to ensure that your child feels supported without compromising their safety. **In order for us to achieve this, please click on this [LINK](#) and complete the online survey to identify your decision in sending your child to school the week commencing 29 June. If you have more than one child attending St Joseph's RC High School, please complete a separate survey for each child. The online survey will close 10am Monday 15 June.**

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Once the online surveys have been returned, during the week beginning 22 June, I will be contacting individual parents and carers regarding their child's allocated sessions, details of their programme and updating you with information regarding the latest government guidance and how we are adhering to it.

I realise that these new systems will take some getting used to, but I know that the staff and students will adapt. We are looking forward to returning to some sense of normality and thank you in advance for your support with this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jarrett', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Jarrett
Headteacher