



Mission Statement

Guided by Jesus' love and example, we use our gifts to grow, pray and learn as a community; united in faith.

15th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for all that you are continuing to do to help us keep children in school. The months ahead are very uncertain with the discovery of the new COVID variant Omicron. In Derby, Dr Robyn Dewis, Director of Public Health, has recently given extra advice to try to cut down COVID spread in schools. This advice is because of the high rates of COVID cases in the City and the outbreaks in local schools. She advised the following:

- Children who live with someone who is positive for COVID should stay at home, seek a PCR test and should remain at home whilst awaiting their test result. PCR tests are the best test for COVID and the only way that we can identify variants like Omicron.

Around 2 out of 5 children who live with someone infected will become positive for COVID; and around 1 in 3 of these children will not have symptoms. These children are at risk of infecting their friends at school whilst waiting for their PCR result. The Public Health team have seen some of these cases spreading infection to other year groups or schools recently.

There has also been some change in guidance for schools in light of the new Omicron COVID variant that impacts on all children (aged 5 or above) and families in school.

If a child or member of staff (or anyone in the community) is deemed by Test and Trace to be a close contact of anyone with COVID (of any variant), they should take daily lateral flow tests (LFT) for 7 days instead of isolating. These should be in the morning prior to coming to school.

If we feel that your child may have been a close contact of a COVID case in school, we may contact you and ask you to complete the daily testing. You can order lateral flow tests [here](#).

As a result of the rising number of cases across the UK, the DFE has also asked all schools to relook at their contingency planning in time for January. At the present time, we have been given no further information than this. We have simply been asked to be **prepared for all eventualities**. In reality, this might mean that things remain the same, or could include such measures as a return to the 'bubble system' that was in operation last year. This is where the school (YR, Y1 and 2, Y3 and 4, Y5 and 6) form separate bubbles which do not cross. If this is to be the case, we shall of course inform you of this as soon as possible after the government announcement is made or guidance is given.

As part of our contingency planning, we must also plan for periods of government/local authority directed remote learning. To do this effectively, we must be able to pinpoint our key worker families. For this reason, we will be asking you to let us know your occupation/s and whether you feel that anyone in your household qualifies as a key worker (some definitions are included below – these are tentative and may be subject to change depending on any additional government guidance). This information gathering exercise forms part of our contingency planning and is not because we have been told that this will definitely happen.

We kindly ask that these returns are completed promptly by Monday 20th December via Microsoft Forms link here so that we have your most up to date information on file.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=OFYclXnjhUaRUhyDCcoxab7B0RhXzthAmo4xR5SM06BU MEk3VEhZVUIwNIJTU5BUUdZS0tOUFI4NS4u>





Mission Statement

Guided by Jesus' love and example, we use our gifts to grow, pray and learn as a community; united in faith.

For now, we shall continue to maintain our preventative measures in school which are as follows:

- Handwashing more frequently - upon entry and exit of the school building and before and after eating / using the toilet etc.
- Not gathering as a whole school, but instead using virtual methods
- Adults wearing masks in communal areas throughout the school
- Increased ventilation throughout the school
- Increased cleaning throughout the day

Thanks to your support, our COVID cases in school have reduced significantly and we hope and pray that this will continue into the new year.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact the school office on 01332 572154 or via email admin@djf.srscmat.co.uk

Best Wishes,

Mrs Brett - Head Teacher

Previous Key Worker Definitions

Health and social care

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

Key public services

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.



DIOCESE OF
NOTTINGHAM

St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy
Alvaston Street, Alvaston,
Derby, DE24 0PA
Email: admin@djf.srscmat.co.uk Tel: 01332 572154
Company Number 7937154
Leadership Team: A. Brett, S. Ratcliffe, J. Gilhooly



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Mission Statement

Guided by Jesus' love and example, we use our gifts to grow, pray and learn as a community; united in faith.

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arm's length bodies.

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

Public safety and national security

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.



DIOCESE OF
NOTTINGHAM

St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy
Alvaston Street, Alvaston,
Derby, DE24 0PA
Email: admin@djf.srscmat.co.uk Tel: 01332 572154
Company Number 7937154
Leadership Team: A. Brett, S. Ratcliffe, J. Gilhooly



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust