



# BISHOP VAUGHAN

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Tuesday, 14 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Due to the very high Covid 19 case rates in Swansea at present, the Swansea Bay Regional Incident Management Team have today informed schools across Swansea that the Covid 19 alert level in Swansea will move from 'low' to 'high.'

The risk controls that are implemented at this level are largely already in place at Bishop Vaughan, as we have retained the vast majority of the risk mitigation measures available to us as a school in the interests of keeping our pupils and their families safe.

### Arrangements that will now change:

- The assemblies, which had recommenced last week 'in person', will return to being conducted via Microsoft Teams and screened in tutorial classrooms.
- Parents will not be allowed onto the school site unless they have a pre-arranged appointment. If you wish to speak to a member of staff, please contact the relevant staff member via email or the school office (01792 772006). Should you be invited in for an appointment, please be aware that it will be necessary to wear a face covering and to report to the reception immediately upon arrival.

### Arrangements that will not change:

- All pupils and adults are required to wear a face covering in all indoor communal areas where distancing is not possible, other than the classroom. This means that they should be worn in corridors and in the dining areas, where not eating. This arrangement was conveyed to all pupils via assemblies at the start of term and this will continue.
- Face coverings are not currently required to be worn in the classroom. This arrangement will not change at present, however should the risk level be raised to 'very high', these will be reintroduced, and all parents, carers and pupils informed accordingly.
- All pupils and staff wishing to wear a face covering in the classroom as an extra protective measure will continue to be supported in this choice.
- At this stage, there is no return to the arrangements for separating contact groups or requiring year group isolation periods where a pupil tests positive for the virus.

**The following rules also remain in place in order to keep all in the school community safe:**

- **No pupil or staff member should attend school if they have symptoms of Covid 19. The three main symptoms are:**
  - **A high temperature**

- **A new, persistent cough (i.e. for more than one hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours)**
- **A loss of (or change to) the sense of smell or taste**
- **If your child becomes symptomatic whilst at school, they will be isolated in a First Aid base and you will be contacted to pick them up immediately. Please ensure that you are contactable at all times during this period of high case rates and a high alert level.**

At present, a pupil under the age of eighteen, or one who is fully vaccinated, is not required to isolate if they have been identified as a contact of a positive case. We would ask all in our school community, however, to be alert to **any** changes in health if they are aware that they have been in contact with a person who has tested positive for the virus. If, for example, there are family members in the household who have tested positive, it would be wise to be watchful for the wider set of symptoms in all other household members, such as headaches, flu-like symptoms, stomach upset or a general feeling of unwellness, and to seek medical advice, lateral flow and PCR tests as necessary. The school will be happy to advise in individual cases, in order to support families and provide information as needed.

With thanks to all in our parent and carer community for their support in our efforts to keep all of our pupils and their families safe and well. I wish you all safety and good health in what continue to be challenging times for us all.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs. E. Pole  
Headteacher