

# St Charles RC Primary School

## COVID-19 Update for Pastoral Policy 2020



*Our mission at St. Charles RC Primary School is to try and centre our life in Jesus Christ, the spiritual foundation of our community.*

*We aim to pass on the faith we share in partnership with you.*

*We want the children in our care to grow and develop to their full potential within a caring Catholic community which recognises fully their true worth and God given talents. We look forward to working with you in a spirit of mutual trust and support.*

*We take pride belonging to St. Charles RC Primary School.*

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

**As a family of God, we love to learn and learn to love**

### **Introduction**

From 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020, parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response – who absolutely need to attend. From June 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 some children will return to school.

## Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
Designated safeguarding lead	Clare Campbell Headteacher	0161 794 4536	<a href="mailto:clare.campbell@salford.gov.uk">clare.campbell@salford.gov.uk</a>
Deputy safeguarding lead	Nicola Drake Assistant Head	0161 794 4536	<a href="mailto:nicola.drake@salford.gov.uk">nicola.drake@salford.gov.uk</a>
Deputy safeguarding lead	Clare Brown Deputy Head	0161 794 4536	<a href="mailto:clare.brown@salford.gov.uk">clare.brown@salford.gov.uk</a>
Chair of governors	Stuart O'Brien	0161 794 4536	<a href="mailto:stuart.obrien2@ntlworld.com">stuart.obrien2@ntlworld.com</a>
LADO	Roisin Rafferty	0161 603 4350	<a href="mailto:roisin.rafferty@salford.gov.uk">roisin.rafferty@salford.gov.uk</a>
The Bridge	Salford Council	0161 603 3500 8.30-4.30pm 0161 794 8888 Emergency duty team	<a href="https://www.salford.gov.uk/children-and-families/safeguarding-children/worried-about-a-child/">https://www.salford.gov.uk/children-and-families/safeguarding-children/worried-about-a-child/</a>

## Context

From 1<sup>st</sup> June schools are being asked to reopen in a phased response. There are multiple pieces of government guidance that recognise that younger children struggle to socially distance however they also recognise the need for schools to reopen in a manner that reduces transmission and considers the health and safety implications for all. It is recognised that with children having been out of school for 10 weeks this is more than just returning from the Summer holidays. The children will each have been through their own experiences during this time and whether they continue to work at home or return to school when they can, they will each be processing their experience in their own ways. In particular mental health issues and well-being will need to be considered in all areas of school life. It has been stated that:

“Mental health issues can bring about changes in a child’s behaviour or emotional state which can be displayed in a range of different ways, all of which could be an indication of an underlying problem. This can include for example, being fearful or withdrawn; aggressive or oppositional; or excessive clinginess.”

As a response, we are making the following additions and amendments:

## Curriculum and timetable

- The staff will create a timetable that is responsive and will be adjusted to the needs of their class to support the transition back to school life.
- An increased amount of curriculum time will be devoted to focusing on PHSE and well-being particularly in the first few weeks. This will include:
  - Why we need to wash our hands and how
  - How and why we need to keep each other safe
  - Creating a class charter of how to take care of each other
  - Why we have to keep our distance from other bubbles
  - How do we feel about what we have been through and what is happening

- Feelings and how to look after ourselves mentally
- Compassion
- The staff will also focus on English and Maths and using the outdoor space
- The school will ensure the pupils continue to have broad curriculum experiences an

## **Mental health**

The school community is at the heart of our parish and the head teacher will continue to support the staff in maintaining this in a time of distance. In addition to the areas above, the school check in on all children both at home and in school. We will consider milestones that occur in the school year that are important to the pupils and how we will continue to support these. Each decision that is made will consider children both at home and in school.

For example; a whole school talent show that all members can submit videos to. A continuity of familiar areas of the school week for example weekly celebration assembly online.

## **Pastoral**

We recognise that for some children the excitement to return to school will be the highlight, however there are others who will find the transition difficult. We will support our children to come to school and separate from their parents, but we know that this will take patience and time. We will make use of our social media, email and website to share updates with home about the school day and work with individual families to support any children who are really struggling. Flexibility will be the key.

We will also use our school policy approach of praise and encouragement to help our children to learn the new school routines. We recognise that they will make mistakes and will need gentle guidance, education and praise to help them to learn these new expectations. It is essential that we do not pretend that everything is normal, time to listen, talk and reflect is critical in supporting our staff and children to adjust to the phased wider reopening of school. If we manage our 'new temporary' in a holistic and non-scary manner we will build resilience and security in our school community.

## **Bereavement**

Some of our children have been bereaved during their time away from school. Our art therapist Vicky Smith will work one-to-one with these children for an hour a week to support them with their grief.

## **Equal Opportunities**

St Charles RC Primary School has universal ambitions for every child, whatever their background or circumstances. Children learn and thrive when they are healthy, safe and engaged. In order to engage all children, cultural diversity, home languages, gender and religious beliefs are all celebrated.

Our curriculum includes a wide range of texts and other resources which represent the diversity and backgrounds of all our children. We believe in 'valuing what the child brings to

school' and recognise the importance of supporting a child's first language, not only to foster self-esteem, but to assist in the learning of English.