

## **The St Michael Steiner School**

### **COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan**

The Government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to operate as normally as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. The impacts of having missed face-to-face education during the pandemic are severe for children, young people and adults. In all cases, any benefits in managing transmission should be weighed against any educational drawbacks.

Extra measures will be taken by the school if whichever of these thresholds is reached first:

- 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; or
- 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

If the above thresholds are reached, the school will inform all school parents and will recommend that all pupils test at home using a lateral flow test kit. Parents will be asked to inform the school if their child has a positive result. (Children with negative results or those who do not wish to test do not have to contact the school).

Attendance restrictions will only ever be considered as a short-term measure and as a last resort.

If more than 30% of the pupils of the same class have tested positive, the whole Class and the Class teacher will be asked to self-isolate. Otherwise, the school will only ask those who have tested positive to self-isolate, while encouraging all pupils to test at home.

In the case of a whole Class self-isolating, the Class teacher should provide remote education, if they are well enough or liaise with the school to find cover by another teacher, who will teach the Class remotely. Subject teachers will also be expected to send material/ homework for the Class that they should comment on/ assess weekly.

In the case of some pupils self-isolating, the Class teacher and subject teachers are expected to send material/ homework for the pupils, that should be assessed weekly.

Where vulnerable children and young people are absent, education settings should:

- follow up with the parent or carer, working with the local authority and social worker (where applicable), to explore the reason for absence and discuss their concerns
- encourage the child or young person to attend educational provision, working with the local authority and social worker (where applicable), particularly where the social worker (where applicable) agrees that the child or young person's attendance would be appropriate
- focus the discussions on the welfare of the child or young person and ensuring that the child or young person is able to access appropriate education and support while they are at home

In addition, during the outbreak the school will consider:

- whether any activities could take place outdoors, including exercise, assemblies, or classes

- ways to improve ventilation indoors, where this would not significantly impact thermal comfort
- one-off enhanced cleaning focussing on touch points and any shared equipment

The school will also contact the local authority and the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1) to seek advice.

Open days, parents' evening, school fairs and festivals will be cancelled or postponed during the outbreak. School trips that are difficult to postpone will be reconsidered on the basis of self-testing, of whether the pupils and teacher/ staff accompanying the group have been in close contact with people who have tested positive in the school and of what is required by the venue or site of the visit.