



ST.PATRICK'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hullenedge Road, Elland, West Yorkshire HX5 0QY

Executive Headteacher: Mrs L Lomas

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Wednesday 13th January 2021

Urgent message:

The Government have put the entire country into a national lockdown as they are trying to slow down and stop the spread of this rampant virus. We need to act now, and not wait until the local cases hit the figures that have been reported in other areas of 1500 per 100,000. The science tells us that generally, children will not be too ill if they contract Covid, but our huge worry is about how this will affect staff and your own family should your child attend school.

We would like to remind you of key information shared by the local authority last week:

- The new COVID variant is in Calderdale now, and is spreading rapidly. The number of cases has gone up by over 60% just last week and continues to increase rapidly.
- The new variant makes it much more likely your child will catch COVID from another child if they are in the same room as them and makes it much more likely they in turn will pass it on to other family members and friends.

We have been working within the national guidance [Restricting attendance during the national lockdown:schools](#). The guidance states '*Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can*'. This is in line with essential local and national message for people to stay at home where possible.

We write today having received information from Public Health yesterday making it clear that schools need to make changes to their arrangements for working in school. The information provided gave a formula which schools have been asked to use to determine the safe operational level for our school and the maximum number of pupils and staff that we can have in each classroom and bubble for pupils currently attending school. Due to the size of our classrooms we can have no more than 10 pupils in each classroom, except our Year 5/6 classroom which can accommodate a maximum of 12 pupils with each bubble having a maximum of two members of staff (one is preferable). With our current numbers in school, following these procedures will mean that **we have insufficient capacity to safely accommodate all eligible key worker children**. This means that the

following actions will need to be taken in order to ensure that we are compliant with the direction given by Public Health:

- Using a priority admission list provided by Public Health, numbers in class bubbles will be reduced to 10 (with Year 5/6 being 12). Key workers will be prioritised and, unfortunately, some children will no longer be allocated a place. We realise that this will make things very difficult for some families but wanted to give as much notice as possible for people in this situation to talk to their employer about other arrangements.
- Each bubble will continue to be cared for in lessons by one member of staff where possible and staff numbers will be based on need within the bubble.

Public Health stated in their notice to us yesterday that we should prioritise the following roles:

- Frontline healthcare professionals; hospital doctors, nurses and GPs
- Early Years and education staff
- Personnel involved in the vaccination programme, including administrative staff
- Emergency Services
- Social care staff; home care, social workers working with adults or children

We ask critical workers to ensure we have information relating to your role and your current place of work, ie. working from home or if based at a place of work, and the address. If you are working at home, you should keep your child at home unless you are critical to the fight against COVID or there are safeguarding concerns.

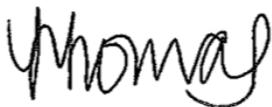
Please email contact@st-patricks.calderdale.sch.uk if you need to discuss any alteration to your keyworker status and/or requirements for your child's critical worker place at school or if you are able to give up your place.

If you can keep your child at home at this time then you should. We ask that families **only send children to school if absolutely necessary, and instead make use of other support available to you by speaking to your employer about changing your working pattern, working from home or making use of any informal childcare bubble where you can** (following national childcare bubble guidance).

We will write to families who are currently accessing in school provision tomorrow to inform them if they have been allocated a place going forward from Monday 18th January.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

God Bless,



Lianne Lomas
Executive Headteacher



Alex Hudson-Crook
Head of School

