

*ST MARY'S R.C.  
PRIMARY & NURSERY  
SCHOOL*

*Headteacher  
Mrs. S. Geddis*



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Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent and Carers,

It was wonderful to welcome the children back to school last week! They have worked so hard during the lockdown, but there is no substitute for them being back in school learning and socialising with their friends. The return to school is hopefully a huge step towards normality! However, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of a few things which have been highlighted over the past week regarding the safety of our St Mary's community.

Within school, we strive to ensure that all children adhere to social distancing in order to reduce the risk of infection. The children are trying really hard to keep to the rules which are set out in the school's covid-19 risk assessment on our website. We ask that parents and carers adhere to the rules too when dropping off/picking up.

Each KS1 and KS2 class has a section of the school pitch set aside for the children and parents to wait on until it is time for the doors to be opened. We urge you to use the areas demarcated, as otherwise there is overcrowding on the concourse which makes social distancing very difficult. Once pupils have been collected, please leave the school site, unless, of course, you have to pick up a sibling. We also request that only one parent/carer per family comes onto the school site to limit numbers.

We have also noticed that there is an alarming number of people who are still coming onto our school premises without wearing masks. Please wear a mask whenever you come onto the school site, unless you are exempt and have a badge. By wearing a mask, you are helping to keep our children, the staff and also other parents/carers safe.

There have been a number of complaints about parking next to Church. Please can we remind you again not to park on the church car park. There is a large car-park next to the convent on Wood Street which is available for your use. The church car-park is for church use only and is not suitable, or large enough, to cater for parents picking up/dropping off. There have been several incidents where cars have been damaged and altercations between parents have occurred, sadly witnessed by the children, which is upsetting for them. Furthermore, cars entering/exiting the car park causes congestion on Wood Street and Bowness Road, and there have been many occasions where serious accidents have narrowly been avoided. The safety of our school family and the general public is of utmost importance, and it is disappointing that our previous requests not to use the car park seem to have gone unnoticed.

We know that the vast majority of parents adhere to our requests to keep us all safe, and for that we are extremely grateful.

On a final note, last year we were due to start our new Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) programme. At St. Mary's, we are proud of the fact that we have taught this for many years, but it has recently been made statutory by the government so that all schools have to teach it. The scheme we used in the past was becoming dated and not particularly relevant to our children in 2021.

Thus, we have changed it, using guidance from Salford Diocese as well as the DfE and Catholic Education Service. We are now going to use a scheme called 'Life to the Full.' Full details of this can be found by visiting their website at

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/life-to-the-full-catholic-landing-page/>

Mr. McGrail did inform you about this last year and provided information, but we understand a lot has happened since then! Therefore, can we ask you to visit the site again to have a look through? Please visit our website to read through our RSE policy. If you have any questions about the scheme or the policy, please feel free to contact school to speak to either myself or Mr. McGrail, as we appreciate your views and opinions on the subject. Our aim is for every parent to have full confidence in our school's RSE policy and programme.

Thank you so much for your continued support through this challenging time!

Yours sincerely,

Ms. S. Geddis



**DIocese of Salford and  
Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale  
Education Committee**