



*Sacred Heart Catholic Primary
School and Nursery*
Windermere Road,
Southend on Sea, Essex, SS1 2RF
01702 534546
office@sacredheart.southend.sch.uk



11th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Arrival and dismissal arrangements

It has been truly wonderful to have all our pupils back at school this week. It has been an anxious time for all lately and I understand the anxiety and concerns that some of you may have had in children returning to school. I am reassured that our very high level of pupil attendance has shown a trust in the work the staff here have done and will continue to do, to keep pupils as safe as possible and enjoy their learning. Thank you.

We have experienced our new arrangements for a whole week and we have continued to review our procedures on an ongoing basis. Our biggest challenge continues to be our arrival and dismissal at school. You will appreciate that the geographical context and the size of our school site are limiting factors in what we can and cannot do. We have been working with the Local Authority and the Highways Agency this week to continue to evaluate our entry and exit arrangements on Windermere Road. You will see that they have added an additional overflow walkway area outside the Infant building – this is a protective measure for those having to walk on the road in order to be able to maintain social distancing. We will, of course, continue to work with the Highways Agency and provide feedback on how effective this measure proves to be.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our staggered arrival and dismissal times. Thank you to parents/carers who continue to adhere to our advice relating to the need to arrive at a precise staggered entry and exit time. Thank you also to those who are maintaining social distancing on the pavement areas outside our gate areas. It continues to be of utmost importance that we all work together to minimise contact as much as possible across the school community.

Please note the following reminders:

- Please continue to **adhere to 2-metre distancing**
- When waiting for your child's entry/exit time, please **avoid congregating at our gate areas** – this makes 2m social distancing difficult to maintain. Please use the pavements areas along the whole length of Windermere Road to wait – please *only* approach the gate area at your child's entry/exit time.



Headteacher: Mrs Janet Mullally
Part of the Assisi Catholic Trust Ltd,
Registered address: Kenilworth Gdns, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS0 0BW
Registered in England. Company No-07696989



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- **Only join queues near gate areas, if space allows.** Please do not place yourself or your children at risk by joining an area that is already (or likely to be) congested.
- When your child enters their designated gate, please **move away from the gate area promptly** to help limit congestion. Loitering at gates makes social distancing difficult.
- Please continue to **time your arrival on Windermere Road as precisely as possible** – not too early and not too late - to limit crowding and to keep your family and others safe.
- When you have dropped off / collected **siblings**, please move away from gate areas by moving to the other side of the road/further along Windermere Road.
- Please **do not attempt to hold conversations with class teachers** at the school gates; this slows down the movement of pupils and parents and causes congestion. Please direct any messages relating to your child via the school office.
- Please be courteous to others in the locality – including local residents. Please also **refrain from leaning against cars** parked along Windermere Road.

Face coverings/masks Whilst the wearing of face coverings is not generally considered to be necessary whilst outdoors, we would encourage parents/carers to consider the wearing of face coverings/masks whilst queuing on pavements and in the proximity of school gates. The wearing of face coverings is encouraged when social distancing is not possible, which is sometimes the case, particularly when congestion occurs on pavements outside the school despite the best efforts of all. However, and most importantly, please note that the wearing of face-coverings should not be a substitute for 2-metre social distancing – please continue to maintain physical distancing from those from outside of your own household, wherever possible.

Please also be reminded of our 'park and stride' initiative, in which you can obtain a permit to park in a local carpark. This will also help to minimise congestion on Windermere Road and keep everyone safe. Further details can be obtained from the school office.

We will continue to modify our systems of control inside and outside the school to keep things running as safely and smoothly as we possibly can. Thank you again for your continued support and co-operation moving forward.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Janet Mullally
Headteacher



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