



Guru Nanak Multi Academy Trust Ltd

Incorporating:
Nanaksar Primary School &
Guru Nanak Sikh Academy
Founder – Sant Baba Amar Singh Ji

16th October 2020

Dear School Community

In recent days we have seen the spread of Coronavirus increase and yesterday's daily average rose to 18,980 new cases nationally. Some scientific research is indicating that this second wave increase is being caused by a mixture of complacency and a decrease in the use and abiding of safety measures.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all of those within our school community who have adapted to, supported and followed all of our COVID-19 safety measures. We appreciate that this has not been easy; from parents having to find new drop off and pick up times, to students accessing a shorter lunch break with classroom and zoned restrictions. It is important we take the time to especially thank our teachers who have not hesitated to be ever present, during and through lockdown and many who supported through the summer online and all those whose daily attendance during this pandemic is greatly valued and appreciated.

Where a positive case is reported, we follow a clear protocol and call the dedicated Public Health Education hotline for schools and follow their advice. It was inevitable with the rising case volume locally that positive cases would be reported and we will continue to respond appropriately and in line with the Public Health England advice.

With this in mind, it is the social and moral responsibility for each and every individual who is aware that they have tested positive for COVID-19 MUST NOT attend school. Parents should inform the school immediately about their child's positive result so that we can begin our internal process of contact tracing in line with the Public Health England advice.

The reality of such situations is that, in these circumstances, we will identify all close contacts. The close contacts definition will be advised by Public Health England and we will begin the process of calling home to these identified individuals. In these circumstances links to live lessons, where feasible, will continue with other additional materials shared online.

All of these measures can be minimised by simply following the guidelines as closely as possible. To date, all transmissions have occurred externally and none of our students who have been told to self-isolate have developed any symptoms or have themselves contracted Coronavirus Covid-19.

Continued...

The safety of all our community is paramount. We **can** reduce the amount of students we need to send home by following the Public Health advice;

- HANDS** – Wash and sanitise hands regularly.
FACE – Keep your face covered in all communal areas and within classrooms.
SPACE – Where possible, keep social distancing in place. Be mindful of where this is not possible and avoid face to face or skin to skin contact. Do not share equipment or devices.

Following the recent COVID alerts, the government has decided that from Saturday 17th October ALL London Boroughs have been categorised as LOCAL COVID ALERT LEVEL 'HIGH'.

This currently places our school and the boroughs of Hillingdon, Ealing, Hounslow and ALL London Boroughs within local COVID alert measures. These measures include;

- NOT MEETING SOCIALLY WITH FRIENDS OR FAMILY MEMBERS THAT YOU DO NOT LIVE WITH
- MEETINGS IN LARGER GROUPS IS AGAINST THE LAW AND YOU CAN BE FINED FOR HOLDING AN ILLEGAL GATHERING

Please see the link for further details.

<https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-local-restrictions>

The exceptions where people from different households can gather clearly includes school. This means that school will remain open and students will still be expected to attend. The exceptions also include students whose parents live separately but share parental responsibility. In this situation, the student will be allowed to be collected by either parent or travel to school and between both of these households.

With these new measures coming into place, we would be negligent if we did not respond to the updated Public Health England advice and review the safety measures we have put in place. This is why following a review of the advice, World Health Organisation (WHO) advice on face masks, and an overwhelming majority of over 89% of parents who completed the survey in favour of compulsory face masks, we have decided the following;

From Monday 19th October face masks will be compulsory for all students and adults within the Secondary School classrooms, common areas and meeting rooms. You will not be expected, but can do so if you wish, wear a face mask at lunchtime or break time if outside or when doing PE (unless not socially distanced). Teachers will not be required to wear a face mask when teaching and standing behind the 2m safety line, but will be required to wear a face shield.

Continued...

Further instructions on face masks and shields will be posted within every classroom by Monday in addition to the information already available.

We all have our part to play and we appreciate the difficulty in adapting to any situation. We are asking parents to be mindful of the following;

- **If your child or anyone in your household tests positive for Coronavirus COVID-19 please inform the school immediately.**
- If your child has any of the following symptoms then they **SHOULD NOT** come to school; continued high temperature / new or persistent cough / loss or change in sense of taste or smell. Please inform the school on the secondary welfare line.
- Entry to the Secondary School grounds by parents is currently not permitted. Notification of any appointments for students must be given at least 48 hours in advance via email (welfare@gnsa.co.uk) or by phone. Evidence of the appointment is required.
- Any parent collecting their child during the school day from the Secondary for appointments will be asked to wait at the pedestrian gate and their child will be escorted out to them.
- If any parent is called by the school to come and collect their child, they will be able to drive into the school car park. They should wait in their car and a member of staff will bring the student out to them.
- Your choice of face mask for your child is important and not all face masks are equal. The disposal style surgical face masks are not meant for long term use and the WHO advises that these masks have a duration of between 3-4 hours. This would mean that if you choose this face mask for your child, you should ensure that they have at least 3 sealed spare masks that can be replaced through the school day.
- A cloth style reusable face mask should be washed daily. Students are advised to keep a spare mask with them.
- Face masks must not contain any offensive or derogatory images, signs, symbols or wording.
- Students with medical conditions that prevent them wearing a face mask will be supported to wear a face shield and staff will be informed.

We thank you for your continued support through these difficult times in helping the school to keep everyone safe. We will continue to update you as and when there are any changes.

Yours faithfully



Mr A D'Onofrio
Vice Principal