



# St Joseph's Roman Catholic High School

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**Headteacher:** Mr T McCabe | **Deputy Headteachers:** Mrs J Morgan, Mrs N Yorke Robinson | **Chair of Governors:** Mrs P Jones  
**Registered Charity Number:** 1075795 | **Facebook:** St Joseph's R.C. High School **Twitter:** @joeys\_rchs **Instagram:** joeys\_rchs

23rd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to inform you that the number of Covid cases in staff and young people at St Joseph's has risen and yesterday reached the highest number of known infections in our community throughout the pandemic so far. Like many schools staff have been hit with the virus as well as large numbers of children so our resources are stretched at the moment. Thanks for your patience as we work together to cover for absent colleagues and try to create as much continuity to learning as possible.

We have investigated contacts of positive cases and whilst there seems to be some causal links within the community suggesting transmission whilst at school, most of our cases seem to have come from different external sources.

Following a situation review meeting with public health we are asking your support in two measures that will help prevent the spread of the virus until the vaccination programme for children can be rolled out to those who consent.

**Measure 1:** We are asking all students to bring a **face covering to school and wear them in public areas and whenever it is hard to social distance**. We have been advised to introduce this for a two week period and will review the situation on Friday 8th October. (This doesn't apply to those with medical exemptions.) We also ask that you remind your child of the importance of hand hygiene and encourage them to use the wash facilities regularly in school. We will be stepping up our enhanced cleaning regimes.

**Measure 2:** We ask that your child and household do two **LFD tests** per week so that we are able to identify and isolate positive cases early.

The Y9 pathway evening and Y7 Mass of Welcome will go ahead as planned but we ask visitors to wear a face covering if they are able and do an LFD test prior to arriving.

We will continue to advertise the availability of vaccines in Bolton in the hope that adults who have not yet been vaccinated have the information they need to make an informed decision. We will also be working with the School Age Immunisation Service to enable a speedy roll out of vaccines for those who consent. Please note that school staff will not be forcing anyone to have a vaccine. We appreciate that this is a personal and sensitive decision for families to make and pass no judgement on your stance. Please do not feel that you need to threaten school with legal action regarding vaccines. We will try to give you as much information as possible as soon as we receive it but the SAIS have responsibility for the process and are best placed to answer any queries.

Many thanks for all your support during these challenging times.

Tony McCabe

Headteacher

