

Stanhope Barrington C of E
Primary School



Head Teacher: Mrs D Cross

School Number 840 3087

Westcroft

Stanhope

Bishop Auckland

Co Durham

DL13 2NU

Tel: 01388 528218

Email: admin@stanhopebarrington.org.uk

Website: stanhopebarrington.org.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

8th November 2021

Re: Update on Covid Restrictions

I am writing to let you know that last week I received an email from Durham County Council Education Team asking all schools in County Durham to voluntarily tighten Covid restrictions in light of the high number of cases in the North East of England. This email was supported by Public Health England. It was a general message to all schools and made it clear that individual schools had to decide what was in the best interest for their local context.

As you know, we have maintained a number of restrictions and did not just return to normal in September like some schools chose to do. Any easing of our Risk Assessment has been carefully thought through and agreed with Health and Safety.

We currently:

- Ask parents to wear face masks whilst on school premises
- Staggered start and collection times
- Limit whole school events to just for Collective Worship and that is limited to three times a week instead of five times a week.
- Our children only mix outdoors at lunchtime and playtimes
- We continue with the same procedure for hand washing and hand sanitising within school
- We do not allow non-essential visitors into school and where we do they are asked to wear a face mask
- High levels of ventilation in all Learning Zones and other rooms such as toilets etc
- Any 'events' (such as Harvest Festival) are carefully planned and have an individualised risk assessment

Throughout the last 19 months, I have tried to take a sensible and proportionate response to Covid and also have to weigh up the risk of Covid against the risk of further impact on our children of tighter restrictions. If we were to tighten restrictions further this would include cancellation of all Collective Worship, a return to the bubbles and a cancellation of any events such as Christmas.

Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust is a company limited by guarantee (company number [10847279](#)) and exempt charity registered in England and Wales at Cuthbert House, Stonebridge, Durham, DH1 3RY



I have discussed the current situation with both Sarah Haynes (Chair of Academy Council), Paul Rickeard (CEO of MAT) and with our full Academy Council.

Given the fact that we are confident that our current Risk Assessment is working effectively and we have no positive cases in school we have taken the decision to maintain our current Risk Assessment and existing restrictions at the current time. Obviously, I monitor the number of cases locally and cases in school on a daily basis and if and when it is necessary, I will, of course, implement tighter measures.

We believe that by not dropping all restrictions earlier in September, we have been able to maintain a Covid secure environment. This has been achieved through the hard work and dedication of our team and is also thanks to you as parents/carers for sticking to our risk assessment.

If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Cross
Head Teacher

Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust is a company limited by guarantee (company number [10847279](#)) and exempt charity registered in England and Wales at Cuthbert House, Stonebridge, Durham, DH1 3RY

