



## **Sutton Veny Approach for the Wider Reopening of School for all Year Groups**

Our planned approach follows the science and safety guidance measures given to schools, but it also promotes a smooth transition for children and staff back to school after the COVID-19 crisis.

The lives, daily experiences and routines of our children, staff and parents have been significantly altered over the last few months. We recognise that the return to school will present another major change, bringing both challenge and opportunity. It is likely that there will be mixed feelings from anxiety and frustration to relief and excitement. As leaders, we want to do all that we can to smooth this transition and so our approach takes account of the need to induct all members of our community into this new way of working.

By ensuring that all children are returning to class teachers, support staff, and a learning environment that is accessible and familiar to them, we will foster a sense of safety security and well-being. This approach is as important for children, as it is for and staff. It is only by rebuilding routines, relationships and expectations, that we will prepare the ground for the very best teaching and learning to take place.

Our yellow and blue groups will be organised by class teachers, with the children's friendships in mind. We believe that this is the best way to create a sense of continuity, stability and well-being during a period of change. We will make the school day and routines feel familiar and we will balance the need to promote social distancing, good hygiene and safe working practice with a need to work in a child friendly way.

We will organise our curriculum and staffing so that the children in both the yellow and blue groups within a class, have access to the same enriching educational experiences and activities, despite being apart. The pattern of days across the term will build momentum because we will see the children from each group, in school, every week. This will help staff to address any safeguarding or welfare concerns.

We will maximise the use of our visual timetable, and website, so that everyone can relearn the rhythm of the school day and adopt the new timetable and systems. Leaders will be on hand to provide support and guidance to all throughout this period of change, as we find new ways to work together as a whole, despite being apart. We will create new systems to find ways to celebrate being together, without assemblies and large events being able to take place.

Our team of staff will be fully prepared to listen to the children and allay their concerns and worries. We will have trained leaders in place to coordinate and provide emotional support and guidance to children, staff and parents remotely or (from a safe distance) in school.

We will continually monitor and review this plan in the days, weeks and months ahead, to ensure that it takes in to account the latest national and local guidance.

## **Protective Measures to make Sutton Veny CofE School safer for children, staff and parents**

To create a safer system in school where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced we will:

### **Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by:**

- Restricting any child or member of staff from entering our school site if they are displaying symptoms of coronavirus
- Making our site strictly for children and staff only. We will not allow any visitors on the school site, unless by pre-arrangement. We will relocate the office/reception desk to the staffroom to improve visibility and security, and ensure delivery drivers do not enter the school.
- Taking rapid action to alert every member of a group if a child, or member of staff displays symptoms of coronavirus. They will be instructed to self-isolate for 14 days.

- Insisting staff, children and family members book tests if they develop symptoms of coronavirus.
- Restricting staff and children from returning to school if they test positive (if they test negative they can return to school and their fellow household members can end their self-isolation).
- Purchasing PPE through our local supply chain. The majority of staff in school will not require PPE. It is only needed if a child is displaying coronavirus symptoms and a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained, whilst the child is isolated before collection, or if close contact is needed for first aid or to support medical needs.

### **Minimising contact and mixing by:**

- Splitting classes in half to create two groups with consistent staffing. This means that no group will exceed the maximum safe group size. (The DfE has set 15 as the maximum safe group size because, in bringing children back to school, they have taken into account the fact that primary age school children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff).
- Altering the classroom furniture and resources in each group area to maximise the space available and reduce pinch points
- Altering the wider school environment to minimise contact and mixing between teaching groups. This involves: separating group playtimes by utilising the back playground, front playground and large field. Groups can play at the same time but in different, separate areas.
- Creating a one-way system to toilets to minimise 'pinch points' and the mixing of two groups.
- Developing outdoor areas for Auckland and Brisbane Class so that they have access to activities outside
- Staggering the school start time. 9:15am for FS2 9:00am for Year 1, 9.05 for year 2, 8.55am for Year 3, 8.50am for Years 4 and 5, and 8:45am for Year 6,
- Staggering the school finish times: 2:45pm for FS2, 3:00pm for Year 1, 2.55pm for year 2, 3.05pm for year 3, 3.10pm for years 4 and 5, and 3:15pm for Year 6
- Developing our 'meet and greet' drop off system at the start of the day to restricting parent gatherings at entrance points and ensure social distancing is adhered to. Adopting a similar system at home time.
- Ensuring staff remain a safe distance from each other by staying with the children and staff in their grouping and not mixing in staffrooms (the staffroom has been turned in to the office)
- Restricting any large gatherings or mixing between groups (so no assemblies or wider school events) but finding new ways to ensure we can celebrate 'together but apart'
- Improving signage to help guide and direct children, staff, visitors and parents

### **Clean hands more often by:**

- Providing all children and staff with access to a sink so that they can wash their hands thoroughly and more frequently (as they enter school, before and after each break and lunch, and leaving school). These times will be timetabled and the children will be supervised.
- Allocating a separate sink to each teaching group with separate handwashing facilities and a supply of soap and hand towels (this is in addition to the sinks in the toilets).
- Teaching the children to wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and drying them thoroughly and displaying posters to provide visual reminders

### **Promote Respiratory Hygiene (catch it, bin it, kill it) by:**

- Teaching the children to avoid touching their mouth, eyes and nose and to cover their mouth and nose with a disposable tissue (or into the crook of their elbow, not into their hand).
- Teaching the children to dispose of all tissues into the bin and immediately wash their hands
- Displaying posters to provide visual reminders
- Actively promoting respiratory hygiene (catch it, bin it, kill it)

### **Cleaning surfaces that are touched frequently by:**

- Regularly cleaning these surfaces and resources throughout the day (timetabled and supervised times)
- Planning a mid-week deep clean to take place between different groups of children
- Purchasing additional cleaning supplies and the required PPE  
Ensuring all areas are well ventilated – windows/doors will be kept open to allow air to circulate
- Removing soft toys and equipment with intricate parts from the classroom environment and preventing children from bringing toys in to school