**Working at St Luke’s During the Covid-19 Crisis**

**Undertaking Activities with children – Updated Guidance 5th March 2021**

It is essential that when planning activities that we consider how to ensure it is safe. Adults need to consider the following points:

1. Can the activity support social distancing?
2. Can the children have their own set of resources?
3. Can any shared resources be cleaned during activities?
4. Ensure activities do not encourage poor hygiene

The best ways to ensure children and adults are kept safe are to:

* Wash hands regularly and for 20 seconds at a time
* Clean surfaces more regularly
* Ensure classrooms and indoor spaces are kept well ventilated.

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| **Activity** | **Guidance** |
| Getting to and from the bus and walking around school  | * Encourage the children to get on and off buses safely themselves, please only do so if they are physical safe to do this.
* Walk by the side of children and try not to hold hands. This will not be possible with some children as they may not be safe or they made need the physical support of an adult. Wash hands after holding children’s hands
* Where possible, do not hold children’s hands. Guide them slowly using verbal directions to get to classes. This may take longer than usual but that is ok and in the long term will improve independence.
* Do not wait in large groups near the door to the car park at the end of the day – the tannoy system will announce when the buses are ready
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| Use of adventure playground, other climbing equipment (indoor and outdoor) and the outdoor gym | * We have purchased antibacterial wipes for classes to use outside. This will mean that areas such as the adventure play can be used in a safer way.
* The wipes should be put in a bag after they are used, the bag should be tied on entering school and placed in a non-classroom bin (e.g. hygiene area, cupboard)
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| Baking and other food preparation activities | * Evidence shows that Coronavirus is destroyed by heat and therefore Baking activities are ok to do.
* Other food preparation that does not involve baking should be carried out by adults only. Adults need to wash their hands and ensure all utensils and surfaces are clean.
* The cooking room is small and therefore is only suitable for very small groups (please be aware that class 5 are using this as an extra teaching space, so please check with them before planning to use it)
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| Classroom activities | * Where possible, reduce physical contact with children.
* Try to give the children their own chair, that they should use throughout the day
* Plan activities which mean pupils can work away from each other.
* Circles – make sure children are spaced out in circles (1 metre), if this is not possible then explore using two circles
* Reduce furniture in the room
* Organise tables so that, where possible, children are not facing each other and adults. Though it is recognised that with the needs of the children this may not be possible.
* Reduce the amount of resources available for children to use in classrooms and clean the resources whenever possible - though the DfE recommends that shared resources (such as books) can be used, they should be cleaned regularly
* Avoid teeth brushing activities with the children
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| Outdoor Activities | * Wipe down shared equipment whenever possible.
* Where possible provide the children with their own equipment for an activity
* Encourage children to keep apart when playing or carrying out learning activities when outside
* The timetable/booking system should be followed for the outdoor areas. Changes to the timetable can be negotiated between class teams (see contact and mixing guidance)
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| Outdoor playtimes (break time and lunch time) | * Any form of queuing should be avoided. If necessary people should queue at least 1 metres apart
* Stagger how you come into the school from the playground to avoid large groups in the corridors or near the entrance to school. Enter in class groups and wait until the other class is in the building before coming in
* Break times and lunchtimes will be staggered. See contact and mixing guidance for further details.
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| Lunchtime - Dining Hall and PE hall | * The PE Hall and Dining hall will be used to space children out
* Sit the children as far away as you can at the tables (minimum 1m). We will have enough tables put out at lunchtime to make sure this can happen
* A timetable for dinner times has been established (see contact and mixing guidance)
* Do not to congregate in large groups when going into and out of the dinner hall/PE Hall. Send someone to check if the dinner hall is ready
* Any form of queuing should be avoided. If necessary people should queue at least 1 metres apart
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| PE | * Where possible PE should take place outside
* If PE has to take place inside then the rooms should be well ventilated
* Avoid games and activities where close contact takes place
* Wipe down shared equipment whenever possible and wipe down all equipment after your group have finished with it
* Where possible provide the children with their own equipment for an activity
* Encourage children to keep apart when playing games or taking part in PE activities
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| Sensory rooms | * The sensory rooms should be avoided, unless it is required as a last resort
* This will mean that if a child really requires the sensory room that it is more likely to be virus free.
* If you are needing to use any of the sensory rooms to support a child then please speak to a senior member of staff and a slot will be identified for you.
* There should be a maximum of two children in the sensory room/s at a time, they should be encouraged to keep apart and they should be from the same bubble
* Any equipment used should be wiped down after use
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| Quiet Rooms | * The quiet rooms are only small and they are difficult rooms to social distance in.
* Only one child and one adult should be in the quiet room at a time and it would be best if the child could use the room independently
* At least one door should be kept open for ventilation
* The need to use the quiet room should be carefully considered by staff
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