

**Alternative Provision Service**

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Dear parent/carer

There is currently a surge in positive Covid-19 tests across the borough and St Helens is on the Government's watch list as an area of concern.

To help reduce the number of COVID-19 infections, we all need to play our part and keep following the rules:

- HANDS – Wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds.
- FACE – Wear a face covering indoors where social distancing may be difficult and where you will come into contact with people you do not usually meet.
- SPACE – Stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place.

You must not meet with people from other households in groups of more than six. This applies to indoors and outdoors, including private homes. Please also stick to this rule when dropping off/collecting your child from school.

Education and work settings are unaffected and we will continue to welcome your child into school - unless they have symptoms of Covid-19 or should be self-isolating.

Please also be aware of the following.

Temperature Checks

Advice from North West Science and Technical cell is as follows:

*“STAC does not currently advise taking of temperatures. Not all cases of COVID-19 display high temperature. It is a very non-specific symptom; children and adults with a high temperature could just as easily have other infections that aren't COVID. Taking temperatures is likely to distract staff and members of the public from observing social distancing, hand and respiratory hygiene measures; and it could also possibly increase the exposure of staff to infection rather than improve detection of cases. However, STAC is also aware that temperature checks are being used in other places and will keep the evidence under review.”*

We will follow this advice and will NOT be performing temperature checks on entry to any of our sites, unless this advice changes.

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## Face masks on Public Transport

Your child should be walking or cycling to school if possible, though we do appreciate our students live all over St Helens and some need to use public transport to get to us.

Please can I remind you that young people over the age of 11 must wear face masks when travelling on public and school transport for the entire journey. If you have difficulty providing your child with masks please talk to staff in school to see if we can help. If they are using reusable masks they should remember a plastic bag to seal the mask in when they arrive at school.

I will endeavour to keep you updated with advice and information provided through Public Health, but should you have any concerns or queries in relation to the above then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Guyer  
Acting Head of Alternative Provision Service

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