

12 July 2021

### Step 4 of the Government's Roadmap out of Lockdown

Dear Parents / Carers

Further to the confirmation that the country will be moving to Step 4 of the Government's Road Map out of Lockdown, I am writing to you to share our thinking on how the schools in our Trust will respond. Our staff have worked tirelessly to support your children during the pandemic. I am immensely grateful to the way they have continued to adapt to the changing demands of school life. I also want to thank all parents and carers for your flexibility and adaptability, as we have moved in and out of lockdowns over the last 18 months.

#### Our approach

Although we are all delighted that we are getting closer to what we once knew as normal, we feel that we should adopt a cautious approach. This is particularly important given that rates of infection are increasing, especially amongst school aged young people. As we enter the final weeks of the school year, we would want to avoid children, families and staff having to isolate as the summer break starts.

Throughout the pandemic, we have followed Government guidance, whilst prioritising the health, safety and happiness of our children, young adults and staff. The most recent Government guidance states: *'Schools which remain open past 19 July 2021 can maintain current measures until the start of the Advent term'*

#### Maintaining current measures

Therefore, our schools will be maintaining their current COVID-19 safety measures and will not be implementing changes at this late stage in the year. Changes bring significant Health and Safety implications and we would prefer staff to focus on bringing these in for September. This will also allow for a greater understanding of how the holiday will affect infection rates. The school will be in touch with you again at the start of the new term with details of changes to routines and procedures.

#### Contact tracing

- From 19 July, schools will no longer be responsible for contact tracing, apart from in exceptional circumstances. Our secondary schools will continue to support Public Health England in this, where appropriate.
- If your child displays symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for the virus following a home test, they should stay at home and you should arrange for a PCR test. You can do this online or by calling 119. For general enquiries about COVID-19 call: the DfE helpline 0800 046 8687



T: 0115 8515454


E: [contactus@lolcatholicmat.co.uk](mailto:contactus@lolcatholicmat.co.uk)

W: [www.lolcatholicmat.co.uk](http://www.lolcatholicmat.co.uk)

- You should still let the school know if your child is absent because they have symptoms or if they test positive.
- You should follow Public Health England guidance, if the PCR test is also positive.

Thank you for your ongoing understanding and support throughout this extremely challenging period.

Yours sincerely,



**James McGeachie**  
CEO, Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT



**Tracy Lane**  
Headteacher, St Patrick's Catholic Primary VA

