Covid-19 plans – St Michael’s Pre-school, September 2020 UPDATED JANUARY 2021

The Government have set out a return to education for all age groups from September 2020.

Updated January 2021 in line with national lockdown.

**THE GOVERNMENT ADVICE AT PRESENT (Jan 2021) IS STAY AT HOME, STAY SAFE, SAVE LIVES.**

**IF YOU ARE ABLE TO CARE FOR YOUR CHILD AT HOME PLEASE FOLLOW THE GOVERNMENTS ADVICE TO STAY AT HOME, PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN, YOUR FAMILY AND OUR VERY VALUABLE STAFF.**

**NOVEMBER 2021 – THIS HAS BEEN PAUSED AS ALL NECESSARY POLICY/PROCEDURES ARE IN PLACE. This will be reviewed on a regular basis and reviewed and actioned as deemed necessary.**

Safety measures to be in place

* The hall floors, doors, windows, toilet areas and kitchen area to be thoroughly cleaned with anti-bac solution at the beginning and end of each session. Touch points are cleaned every hour. Increased cleaning duties will impact on staffing and therefore may result in a reduction of spaces available per session. This would be in line with our risk assessments and a decision that is not taken lightly.
* The storage area will be emptied, thoroughly cleaned half termly and resources selected which would be the most appropriate in the current climate. Cleaning schedules may result in day closures. Resources need to be easily cleaned. All appropriate resources must be thoroughly cleaned prior to opening.
* Limited soft furnishings will be available eg; 2/3 mats due to the requirement to clean them between changes of groups of children.
* All resources are to be cleaned between changes of children who they are accessible to.
* The staff and children in pre-school will be classed as one bubble; in line with current government guidelines.

**What will pre-school look like on a daily basis**

* All surfaces, touch points to be wiped down and toilets cleaned at hourly intervals or as required.
* Gloves and aprons must be worn whilst preparing food, cleaning, changing children’s clothes, nappies, applying sunscreen and attending to any first aid needs. PPE must be changed for each child. If staff wish to use a face covering this will be considered on an individual basis. Face coverings must be worn at the door when greeting people. All parents/carers have been requested to wear masks.
* PPE will not be worn at any other times. The setting is not an appropriate environment for the use of face masks; unless an individual in the setting displays symptoms of Covid-19. This decision is based on government advice and professional knowledge. Children would be daunted by face masks as well as being scared. Children need to see our faces and our lips move when we are communicating with them. Face masks would be detrimental to development. However, as stated above, should a member of staff feel the need to wear PPE in order to stay safe their case will be considered on an individual basis.
* Parents are to drop their children off at the front door, wearing a face mask, at the designated time they are given. Parents may not enter the setting, unless absolutely necessary. Should a parent wish to speak to a member of staff they will have the option of an outdoor meeting, compliant with social distancing or a video link or telephone discussion. Should a face to face meeting be required individuals will wear face masks to prevent the spread of germs.
* Children and staff members must wash their hands or apply anti-bac gel (if available) on entry to the setting, between activities, after toileting and prior to and after meal times. Children and staff members will wash their hands when exiting the building.
* Children will be encouraged to attend to their own personal hygiene as much as possible. Assistance will still be given where needed.
* All bags and lunchboxes brought in to the setting must be wipeable.
* Parents should ensure that packaging in lunch boxes is simple and child friendly to avoid shared handling.
* All communication which is not deemed as urgent will be sent via email or Tapestry. Please ensure you check your emails and Tapestry on a daily basis. Remember to stay connected with us by placing photos etc on your child’s Tapestry page.
* Children will not be able to bring any toys or comforters from home in to the setting unless prior arrangement is made with management.
* Practitioners will be placed on a risk assessed rota to ensure contact is limited within the setting. In Early Years this is extremely difficult to achieve and realistically children will not be able to adhere to social distancing. Pre-school hours, days and routines will be differentiated as required.
* Practitioners will comfort your child when needed which will mean close contact for cuddles or changing etc.
* Children will be allowed to play together.
* Parents are asked not to gather outside in groups and always adhere to the current social distancing rules.
* If any child/adult presents with a temperature/cough/loss of smell and/or taste, during a session, or the practitioners are concerned about an individual’s health, they will be provided with a comfortable place in our small room. The door will not be closed as this is against our safeguarding policy. Practitioners will be supplied with a reusable/disposable facemask in such circumstances, along with gloves and aprons. Parents of the child will be contacted. All other parents will be contacted to collect their child from pre-school until the premises and resources are deep cleaned and we have received confirmation that the temperature/cough is not Covid-19 related.
* If anyone in your household has symptoms then you cannot bring your child to pre-school. You can return after 10 days self-isolation as long as no further cases are reported. You are advised to seek a test and contact track and trace services.
* Messy play, sand and water play will be provided in line with government recommendations.
* Session times will need to be altered to allow for the flexibility of drop offs and pickups; and to allow for robust cleaning schedules. Due to the continuous changes surrounding the governments approach to Covid-19 we cannot be certain of how pre-school will look on in the future, however plans at present are based on free flow play, independent play and a child’s natural instinct to explore their environment.
* Practitioners will utilise the outdoor space as frequently as possible.
* Between sessions all resources and equipment will be cleaned in line with government guidelines.
* We cannot guarantee that pre-school will be a risk-free environment, however we will do our utmost to ensure rigorous hygiene measures are in place and adhered to.

*Our door is always open and we continue to value the importance of parent partnerships. Please do not hesitate to ask for a chat or a meeting. We will never turn any parent or their child away. We are here to help you and your child on your journey through early education.*

Further information on up to date government guidelines can be found at;

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>