

Guidance for parents from September 2021



Please note this guidance may change in
Keeping with any new government
Guidance on what is required from Early
Years setting to keep your children safe

Information For All Parents September 2021

This guidance is for parents so you understand what the next phase of early education will look like at St. Michaels. In the guidance, there is important information regarding meals, early education and childcare provision for our children to enable us to keep your child safe.

To all Parents of children attending the Family Centre - IT IS CRUCIAL THAT YOU READ THIS AND ARE ABLE TO ACT ON ALL THE REQUIREMENTS BEFORE BRINGING YOUR CHILD TO the Family Centre

For children starting the Family Centre from September 2021 the current plan is that children will return week commencing **6th September 2021 for most children this will be a phased start to allow us to settle in smaller groups of children at a time.**

Key questions and answers:

Will my child be with their normal keyworker and group?

We hope to be able to keep children with their key-worker and in the same key group, however initially the children will be in smaller groups. Each group and room will have their own key-staff. The intention is that this is an adult that your child becomes familiar with and is used to.

Will my child be with their friends?

Children will be in key-group in keeping with OfSTED and the EYFS guidance. This means that your child should be with their friends.

How will the children arrive at/leave family centre?

We intend to have a 1 way flow for parents and children therefore we ask that:

- Please park considerably to avoid overcrowding. Please park further up the road and walk to the family centre if possible.
- Parents to arrive at the main door at booked/allocated time where they will be let in 1 at a time to allow social distancing at the entrance and in the corridor area
- Parents to stand/wait socially distanced with their children if they need to wait to be let in
- Parent to wear a face covering (we have spare if needed)
- Parents to say goodbye to children at the door to the child's room and not enter the room unless it is the essential
- Then parents to leave via the fire exit door at the end of the corridor (Saddlebow Road)
- We ask that Parents please do not gather or wait at entrances after drop off- we will ask you to move on.
- Children will be supported to wash their hands as they arrive in the play-room and before going to play.
- At the end of the day we will rota pick up times to enable parents and children to leave safely. Again we ask that you move on quickly to avoid crowding when collecting your child.



Will children be made to keep socially distanced?

- We will encourage the children to maintain sensible distancing in each room by encouraging children to play alongside others with resources and materials. We will try not to mix children with other groups during the day unless it is safe to do so. The Government guidance states that it is not possible for younger children to be socially distanced and they can mix with the children in their peer group and room.
- We have separate toilets and wash basins in each room. Outside exits from the room will be used to access the garden area as normal.
- We will have a 'one-flow' system inside family centre so that we do not need to pass closely in corridors.
- We encourage **Only 2 children** to be in the toilet areas at a time.



How will out-side play-time work?

Each group will be given a separate time for outside play. Children will not normally be able to mix with children from other rooms/groups. We will have a number of safe activities for children to choose from outside.

Will my child/staff be expected/able to wear a face covering?

Current Government guidance has advised that PPE is **not needed** for children or adults for general use in early years settings. This is because face masks can cause more cross contamination due to children constantly touching their own masks and also where masks are taken on and off and left on surfaces. Adults may wear PPE when administering first aid and during intimate care or if there is a need for close contact.

Will my child have to wear specialist clothing?

Children should wear sensible clothes which are easy to wash, dry and iron (remember they will need to keep shoulders covered during the summer months). We expect all children and staff to wear clean clothing each day to prevent the risk of cross infection.

Will the routine be back to normal?

We hope to keep the routine as normal as possible however the children will be in their group and room whenever practicable, every day. We will add in additional time outside for activities where the weather allows. You should not notice too many changes as we want it to appear as normal as possible, for our children however, we will be limiting and changing our resources on a rota basis. With resources being deep cleaned between use, in keeping with government guidelines.



What will be lunch provision?

Saddlebow Road: Parents will be able to choose either to provide a healthy packed lunch or a hot meal that will be prepared in our kitchen at Saddlebow Road this is a fixed menu at this time and as such if your child has specific diet requirements we may not be able to meet these and you may need to provide a healthy packed lunch.

Church Lane: For those children attending our Church Lane site the children need to bring a healthy packed lunch.

All children will use separate drinking cups each day which will go through the dishwasher daily. For our younger children could you provide a suitable water bottle (ask a staff member for advice).



Will my child be able to eat lunch with their friends?

Saddlebow Road: The Tiny Owls have lunch together in the Tiny Owl Room
For the Barn and Snowy Owls: Lunches will be eaten in Wise Owl room (Saddlebow Road) which will be cleaned both before and after lunch, they will sit with others from their group/room.

Church Lane: For those children at Church Lane the Little and Tawny Owls will sit in their room groups in the Tawny Owl Room. After the children have eaten, they will go back to their normal room or outside to play.

What will happen if my child gets upset?

The staff in each group/room will use their judgement about getting close to children and use PPE when needed. Although there will not be as much physical contact as before, we would never leave a child in distress and if they need physical comfort/or a cuddle they will be given this.

What happens if a child becomes unwell?

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in an education or childcare setting, we will follow: the [COVID-19: guidance on possible coronavirus infection](#).

If a child needed to be collected and is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. A window should be opened for ventilation.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate toilet area. This area will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

PPE will be used in keeping with government guidance while caring for the child while they await collection.

In an emergency, we will call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. We are advised not to visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive (see 'What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?' below). They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the used area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#).

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be advised to follow the [Government Guidance for COVID 19](#).

Note: All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their group within their childcare/early education setting should follow the government guidance for a [confirmed COVID 19 case](#).

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. The settings will be observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, therefore closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

Parents will be advised that a positive case has been confirmed in the setting so that they are able to make an informed decision to continue to send their child or keep them at home for a period of time – note that fees may still be charged should the parent elect to keep a child at home.

Is it totally safe for my child to attend the Family Centre?

We cannot guarantee that your child will not become ill, or that we can totally eradicate cross infection. This is just the same for any public space such as supermarkets etc. However, we have highly trained staff, and they follow all of the safety advice, provide resources for staff to use and make it as safe as possible. We are reviewing procedures each week and monitor our systems to make sure staff are adhering to them.

Behaviour expectations of children

It will be vitally important that children do not put other children and staff at risk. We will spend time supporting children with handwashing and other routines as needed as they start and attend the family centre.

We will promote:

Follow instructions on the social distancing as appropriate

Telling an adult if I feel unwell;

Not bring things/toys into centre from home, or take things home from setting

Only use the resources and equipment provided by the family centre

Follow good hygiene rules: coughing and sneezing into elbow or tissue (catch it-bin it-kill it);

Follow good hand hygiene – use soap and water for 20 seconds/ hand sanitiser;

All the guidance in this guidance is subject to change and review as required. I hope you find it helpful and informative to enable you to make decisions based on what you think is best for your child. I also hope that it helps you to feel confident that all staff in the family centre are working hard to ensure it is as safe as possible for all.

Please get in touch if you have any queries or issues we can help with.

Please note that you will receive a separate email to confirm your child's place and allocated start time.