

PARKHALL INTEGRATED COLLEGE

Steeple Road
Antrim
BT41 1AF
Tel: **02894 468556**



Principal: **Mr G. Beattie B. Ed. M. Ed. PQH**

www.parkhallintegratedcollege.org

info@parkhallintegratedcollege.antrim.ni.sch.uk

August 2021

Dear Parent /Guardian

On Thursday 19th August the Minister of Education published her new guidelines for reopening schools- 'New School Day'. We are continuing to update our 'Restart and Recovery' Action Plan in the light of this guidance.

In the light of this guidance I wish to inform you that the school day will function in the same way as we did following our return to school in March. As the threat of Covid 19 is still high in the province, it will be essential that our pupils and staff continue to implement these established routines to ensure that the health and safety of everyone within our school community is prioritised.

I would like to provide the most recent guidance for Parents/Guardians at this stage through answering a number of Frequently Asked Questions.

Transport to and from School

- Dedicated school buses will commence from 1st September 2021.
- Translink are advising that pupils should wear a face covering on their journey to and from school on all forms of public transport

What happens when pupils arrive at School?

- Pupils should not arrive onto the school premises before 8.50am, unless using breakfast club.
- Year 8 pupils should make their way to the front playground (to the left of the Main Reception Area) and enter through the Hub doors when collected by their registration teachers.
- Year 9 pupils should make their way to the back playground and enter through the doors at the canteen corridor when collected by their registration teachers
- Year 10 pupils should make their way to the Tennis Court Area and enter through the Technology Doors when collected by their registration teachers
- Year 11 pupils should enter through the Canteen doors into the Canteen when collected by their registration teachers
- Year 12 pupils should enter through the Pupil Entrance into the Assembly Hall when collected by their registration teachers
- Year 13 and Year 14 pupils should enter through the Youth Club Entrance.

Do pupils wear School Uniform?

- Yes, pupils should wear full school uniform.
- Due to the current situation pupils may have to spend some time outside during the day. Please ensure that all pupils have a suitable coat in case of inclement weather.

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To provide a caring learning environment where each person feels valued and respected

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Should pupils bring a school bag and equipment?

- Yes, all pupils must bring a school bag and it must contain all their necessary equipment including pens/pencils/ruler/calculator/eraser/sharpener, coloured pencils etc.
- This is particularly important as sharing of equipment is not allowed in the current situation.

How can we improve hygiene for pupils?

- Pupils will be encouraged to sanitise their hands on entry to the building.
- Each pupil will be required to sanitise their hands as they enter each classroom.
- Pupils will be encouraged to wash their hands thoroughly throughout the school day.
- Pupils must wipe down their desk and chair when they enter classrooms throughout the school day.
- Pupils should carry their own pocket-sized hand sanitiser and a packet of tissues.

What about Face Masks?

- It is currently mandatory for pupils to wear face masks throughout the school day, except when seated at break and lunch time. This guidance will be reviewed in October.
- Where pupils are not able to wear a mask for medical reasons, parents should contact school directly. A face visor or an exemption lanyard will be issued as an alternative.
- Pupils are expected to wear a mask on public transport to and from school.

***Please note that this guidance may change in the upcoming days or weeks.**

How will Social Distancing be promoted?

- Whilst social distancing has been relaxed for pupils to allow a full return to school, it is essential that pupils follow the guidance to remain 2 metres from adults at all times and that all adults remain 2 metres apart throughout the day.
- Pupils moving around the school will follow a one-way system in corridors. All pupils must adhere to these systems when moving around the school.
- All pupils in Years 8 –10 will continue to be taught in Class ‘Bubbles’ and at other times they will form part of year group ‘bubbles’, including at Break and Lunch-time and at the start and end of the day.
- All pupils in Years 11-14 will operate in Year Group ‘Bubbles’ throughout the school day.

Will PE still be taught?

- Yes, the guidance states that PE should take place.
- For Years 8, 9 and 10 pupils on the days that they have PE or Games the pupils are exempt from wearing school uniform and should wear their school PE Kit **with a pair of navy tracksuit bottoms.**
- For Year 11 & 12 pupil who have games on their Timetable they are also exempt from wearing school uniform on this day and should attend wearing full PE Kit **with a pair of navy tracksuit bottoms.**

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Canteen Facilities for Lunch

- At Break and Lunch Year 13 & 14 pupils will be able to access hot food in the Youth Area
- At Break and Lunch Year 12 pupils will be able to access hot food in the Assembly Hall
- At Break and Lunch Year 11 pupils will be able to access hot food in the Canteen.
- At Break and Lunch Year 10 pupils will be able to access hot food in the Assembly Hall
- At Break and Lunch Year 9 pupils will be able to access hot food in the Sports Hall.
- At Break and Lunch Year 8 pupils will be able to access hot food in the Sports Hall.

End of school day

- In order to ease congestion at the end of the school day pupils will be released from school through the most convenient exit within the one-way system at the following times:
Year 13/14- 3.05pm
Year 11/12- 3.05pm
Year 10 – 3.00pm
Year 9 – 2.55pm
Year 8 – 2.50pm

Attendance at School

- Any pupil who has symptoms of Coronavirus or has tested positive should not attend school.
- A small number of pupils may be in the Clinically Vulnerable category and these pupils should follow the advice of their medical consultant in relation to attending school.
- Where a pupil displays symptoms of coronavirus we will closely follow the Department of Education and Public Health Agency guidance and we will contact parents or other named contacts following our normal school procedures.

Pastoral concerns

- We appreciate fully that this continues to be a difficult time for our pupils and staff and will endeavour to support any personal concerns as they arise. Please contact us through our email account or through the appropriate pastoral staff if you have any specific concerns.
- The Guidance from DE states ‘The school’s pupil behaviour policy should be reviewed to ensure that it covers COVID-19 related incidents and should make provision for the school to be able to sanction, up to and including exclusion, pupils who wilfully refuse to adhere to arrangements of social distancing and deliberately cough or spit at pupils or staff, putting them at risk.’

Extra-curricular activities

- At this time we will be able to run a number of extra-curricular activities and breakfast club for year 8 pupils. Further details will follow in due course.

Can Parents/Visitors enter the School Building?

- Unfortunately, at this time we will not be able to permit parents or visitors to enter the school building unless through prior appointment. Contact can be made through telephone or by email at info@parkhallintegratedcollege.antrim.ni.sch.uk

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How will Parents be kept updated if Guidance Changes?

- We will continue to provide updated information as required through the use of Parent App, our Website and social media. If you have any queries regarding this guidance please contact us by email on info@parkhallintegratedcollege.antrim.ni.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding on this matter and we look forward to welcoming your child back to school next week.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Beattie', written over a horizontal line.

G Beattie (Mr)
Principal

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