



Llangewydd Junior School

Headteacher: Mr N. Clode; Deputy Headteacher: Mrs L Evans; Assistant Headteacher: Mr D Evans;
ALNCo. : Mrs T Porter; Senior Leadership Team: Mrs J Davies & Mrs W Mitchell

October 2nd, 2020

Annwyl Rieni/Gwarchodwyr,
Dear Parents/Carers

Measures to support the continuity of learning and wellbeing of all.

As you will be aware, the Bridgend Local Authority has been placed in local lockdown as a result of a rise in transmission rates of Covid-19. We are contacting you to remind you of the measures we have taken to date, and will continue to take, to minimise the transmission of Covid-19. At the time of writing we have had no reported positive cases of Covid-19 amongst our pupils or staff, yet for many schools this is not the case and it is no reflection on them or us that this is so. However, we must now prepare for the increasing possibility that this situation will change however.

You may be aware that in some schools whole year groups have been required to self-isolate, we are hopeful that if we have a positive reported case in our school, only pupils in the relevant 'bubble' will have to self-isolate. This is because:

1. Strict hygiene measures are in place at the school. These include hand gel at all main building entrances and cleaners working throughout the school day to disinfect all touch areas, toilets, etc. Additionally, we have an abundance of disinfectant wipes on desks in all classrooms, for staff to clean stations before and after lessons.
2. All staff are encouraged to maintain 2m (at least) distance, in classrooms, from pupils and from all other staff, unless there is an exceptional reason, e.g. a child needing first aid; however, PPE is required for this.
3. Pupils have split breaks and lunches and separate classes/bubbles are not classified as 'close contacts' even if they are on the same break.
4. Classroom areas are well ventilated as windows are kept open to ensure reasonable circulation of air. As the winter months will bring colder weather, we will open windows regularly, between lessons, to circulate the air and to ventilate the rooms and children and staff will be able to wear garments to keep themselves warm, but still facilitate good air circulation, as far as reasonably possible.

For the purposes of identification of 'close contacts' associated with the track and trace, a close contact is defined as:

1. having skin to skin contact;
2. travelling in the same vehicle as another/others, even with a face covering;
3. being within 2 metres for more than 15 minutes; and/or,
4. being within 1 metre for 1 minute (face to face conversation).

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In our school, 'close contacts' are not:

1. Pupils in different classrooms...

2. Pupils who have been in corridors or other communal areas and have passed each other, unless there has been direct skin-to-skin contact or they have lingered face-to-face, for more than 1 minute, within 1 metre.

3. Pupils who have been outdoors together in the yard, have not had skin-to-skin contact and have not been within 2 metres for more than 15 minutes. It is recognised that being outdoors poses far lower risk than indoor areas.

4. Pupils sharing the dining hall with a pupil who later tests positive, and who do not meet the definition, as stated above, of being a close contact.

Now that schools are expected to provide education for all pupils, social distancing for pupils within the classroom is impossible and other measures are now in place (as stated above) to minimise and contain the transmission, to as few pupils as possible.

We are mindful of and empathetic to the fact that, within some families, there are people with underlying health conditions and other factors which put them at higher risk of developing more serious conditions if they contract this virus. We know that you will be making adjustments at home to account for the fact that pupils are unable to socially distance in school.

Behaviour of 'junior' age pupils in the school environment

Please note that, with the exception of staff maintaining social distancing, we aim to provide as much of a normal day and experience for pupils as possible. We recognise that socialising with peers, playing games, etc. during break and lunch is highly important in maintaining healthy mental and physical wellbeing. It is impossible and unreasonable to expect children to socially distance and avoid the usual way that they interact with each other in large social settings. Given the very low risk of primary age children becoming seriously unwell from Covid-19, we acknowledge that we are unable to insist that pupils keep 2m away from each other. As already stated, the physical space renders this impossible and our strategies, all of which follow the Welsh Government Operational Guidance (Version 3), are designed to minimise transmission amongst the whole of the school population.

With regard to practical and physical education lessons, we are aiming to have these fully operational, with hygiene measures in place, by half term or soon after half term. This will ensure that all pupils have access to the full range of activities with appropriate risk assessments in place.



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Continuity of learning

We have a '**Continuity Learning Plan**' which is designed to provide a graduated plan for learning in the event of individual pupils being away from school, in the short term and, for up to 14 days of self-isolation. This enables pupils with mild illness to continue to work and learn from home to ensure progression in nearly all subjects that they study.

On each occasion when a pupil tests positive and other children are required to self-isolate, we will establish the numbers and ages of those required to self-isolate and we will operate a flexible and bespoke plan. This plan will be agile and will change depending upon the number of pupils, the available staff and resources, etc. We recognise that our plan for one set of circumstances will vary for another. The bespoke teaching could include:

- phone contact from the designated subject teacher to provide over the phone support;
- online learning via Google Classroom;
- paper-based copies of resources, where appropriate; and,
- pre-recorded video clips, where appropriate and relevant.

We are now working on the next stages of our teaching, learning and wellbeing strategic plans. These plans include:

- developing blended learning techniques, using research and trialling approaches in the classroom and remotely;
- analysing qualitative and quantitative data to establish which pupils need intervention and identifying interventions to match any identified deficits in learning and wellbeing;
- planning catchup programmes for individuals and groups of pupils, especially disadvantaged learners;
- identifying bespoke learning continuity plans to assist any pupils requiring 14 days of self-isolation; and,
- one to one and small group based tuition, for pupils of all abilities, to ensure that they have opportunities to meet their potential

Thank you for your continued support in highly challenging times.

Kindest Regards,

Neil Clode