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## **The Iona School Return to School Policy - Phase 1**

At the Iona School we recognise that the return to school is not without risk to our children, our staff, families linked to these and the wider communities around schools and our homes. Each school must find its own path based on the environment they have and the members of staff available at this time. The Iona School wants to maintain and protect the excellent relationships with the families, and the school aims to be fair, open and transparent at every stage. This is going to be a stressful and anxious time for staff, parents and pupils as all learn to work, play and interact in this new way. There can be no guarantees, despite all of the careful planning and measured steps that we take going forward with this first phase, that things will be 'safe'.

Following the removal of lockdown restrictions, and following government guidelines we will be welcoming back the following classes first:

1. Key workers' children

### Phase 1 Attendees

2. Pre-School/ Reception (Kindergarten)
3. Class T
4. Class 5

Siblings in classes other than those specified will not be allowed back into school until the time of their phased return, with the exception of key workers' children.

The Iona School will not be able to offer full-time education on-site to the pupils at this time due to:

- staffing restrictions

enforcing a slow and steady start which will limit risk and allow us to review and assess on a regular basis.

The school is ultimately responsible to comply with the safety expectations in the guidelines and findings from our independent risk assessments.

### **Attendance**

In accordance with government guidelines the Iona School encourages the return to school of the above classes. There will be no fines for non-attendance. It is each individual family's choice as to whether you send your child back to school. The Iona School will respect your decision.

Children who are considered extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should not attend.

Staff or children who live with others, who have a health condition that makes them vulnerable and at higher risk of severe illness from Coronavirus, should seek and follow individual medical advice.

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### **Social Distancing on School Property**

Families will keep a social distancing of 2 metres at pick up and drop off times. There will be marks to show a 2 metre distance.

Children will be allocated a group or “bubble” with a teacher, and won’t mix with other groups. Bubble groups will consist of a maximum of 8 children and have dedicated bubble leaders.

### **Pupil Pick Up & Drop Off**

Parents will be allocated a half an hour slot in which to drop off their children

Key Worker Children: 9 - 9.30am

Phase 1 Attendees: 12:00 to 12:30.

Pick up will be at 3pm every day for everyone.

If there are delays in getting to school, parents will need to ring the main school number 0115 941 5295 and a member of staff will provide further guidance.

Areas will be clearly marked for parents and children to wait in the top car park for pupil drop off and collection. The child’s bubble leader will ask the child to come forward or will come to collect them. At home time the reverse will happen; bubble leaders will direct/take the children back to their parents.

If children experience difficulties being left at school an area near the entrance to the land will be allocated where a parent may soothe their child and build their confidence. Please bear in mind that any adult fears and apprehensions pass over to children very easily without words.

### **Social Distancing in School**

As you will understand, once in school the 2 metre distancing rule will be challenging to enforce especially with our youngest children.

The children will be maintained in their individual bubbles each day to minimise risk.

### **Health and Safety on the Land**

Risk Assessments will be regularly carried out and reviewed for the duration of the summer term. These documents will be available on the school website for your interest.

### **Social Groups**

Children will be in the same small group at all times of each day, with inevitable close contact and different groups will not be mixed.

Guidelines advise that groups should not be mixed so your child will not necessarily be able to be with all of their friends or their usual class teacher.

The same staff will be allocated to a group and as far as possible they will remain the same throughout the day.

### **Consumables**

Children and staff must only consume their own food and beverages and strict hand washing will be observed before and after these activities.

### **Hygiene Practices**

The Iona School will continue to ensure frequent and quality hand washing. Key times will include a wash-in and wash-out policy for all staff and pupils; upon arrival to/departure from school.

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Frequent cleaning and sterilisation will take place on surfaces that school attendees touch more regularly e.g. toys, resources, gates, chairs, mats, benches, toilet areas, etc.

All staff working on site will acknowledge and be following the [COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings](#)  
All staff members at the Iona School will understand that each person has a duty of care to adopt thorough cleaning and mindful hygiene practices during this period.

The school recommends clean, freshly laundered clothing everyday. After each day, upon arrival home, it is recommended that all wash their hands and your child/staff members should change clothing and place used clothing into the washing machine.

Fabric items that cannot be washed can be quarantined for 72 hours to decontaminate.

Plastic and metal items that cannot be washed need 6 days to decontaminate.

Plastic gloves and aprons will be provided for staff and they are to wear these now whilst assisting with toileting, handling food and when cleaning facilities/equipment.

Individual resources will be supplied as much as possible during sessions; such as stationary, craft, equipment/resources.

### **Illness**

On a daily basis we ask you to monitor yourself and members of your household carefully and mindfully.

Should any symptoms of COVID-19 present themselves **\*\*DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL\*\***

Do not leave home if you or someone you live with has any of the following:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

All occurrences of COVID-19 which are confirmed (through a positive test result) within your household, must be reported to the Iona School without delay.

Staff will be vigilant and will be issued with their own PPE and first aid equipment. If a suspected case occurs the patient will have their temperature taken and, if necessary, be accompanied to the sick room to await collection. Please see 'Figure A. COVID-19 Procedure' for sequential steps to take with suspected cases.

The rest of the bubble may continue to attend school unless a member of the group tests positive for COVID-19.

Ensure that you are available to be contacted while your child is in the care of the school and please be prepared to collect your child promptly should they become unwell.

The only time staff will definitely wear full PPE (personal protective equipment) is whilst supervising a child waiting to be collected if they are displaying symptoms associated with coronavirus.

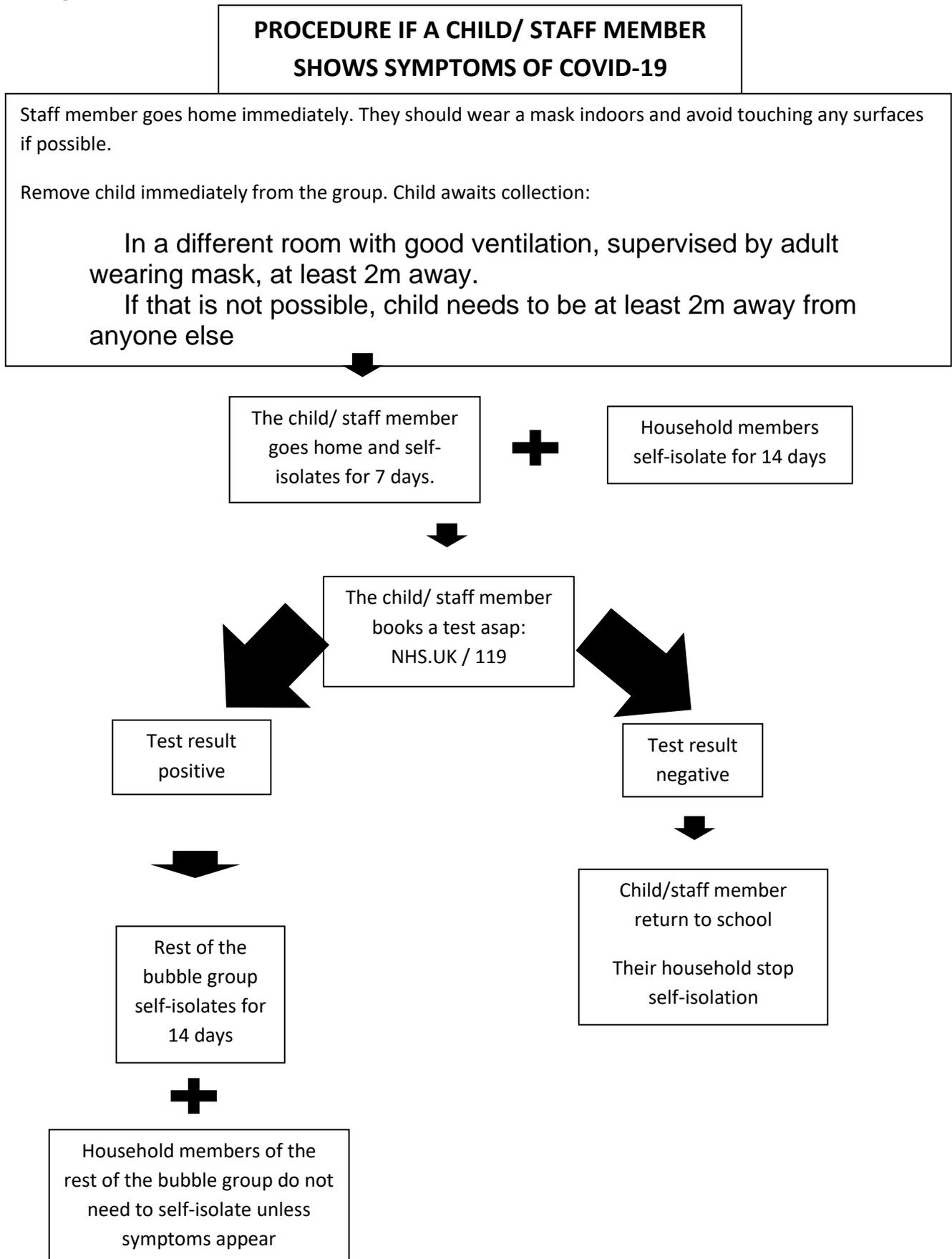
Full PPE includes:

- Face masks
- Eye Shields
- Gloves
- Aprons

Our nearest testing centre: **Motorpoint Arena car park, off City Link.**



Figure A. COVID-19 Procedure



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### **These links provide more information:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

[COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings](#)

Appendix 1

A signed and dated copy of this document must be provided to the Iona School before your child/ren can be admitted to the care of staff members during Phase 1.

**Parent Declaration**

To help my child at school, I know and understand that:

- If my child, or anyone in my household, shows symptoms of COVID-19, I will not send them to school, we will self-isolate for 14 days as a family. I will get them tested and I will let the school know as soon as possible via telephone.
- If my child, or another child in the group, shows symptoms of COVID-19 at school, I will collect my child from school immediately.
- On my commute, and when dropping my child off and picking them up, I will adhere to the 2 metre social distancing rules.
- When dropping off and picking up, I will endeavour to stick to the school timings for my child.
- I am aware that my child will have their temperature taken during the day if they state that they feel or present as being unwell.
- I will need to remind my child about social distancing rules but accept they are difficult to follow and that my child or other children may find this difficult to maintain.
- My child will be encouraged to use good hygiene habits: coughing/ sneezing into a tissue and hand washing which lasts a minimum of 20 seconds.
- I have read and understood the Iona School 'Back to School' Policy and [COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings](#), which provide clear guidance on all rules and how to maintain good hygiene practices following contact at school.
- I will not be allowed into the school without a pre- arranged appointment – all appointments will be made via telephone or email.
- I will support all staff in their efforts to create an 'as safe as possible' environment during this pandemic, and follow their directions and guidance whilst on site.
- I will promptly regard and observe guidance from all letters/messages/emails that are sent home.
- I will inform the school immediately of any changes to the parent/carer collecting my child/ren, and alterations to emergency contacts details.
- If any questions arise, I will ensure that there is good communication and I will contact school as soon as possible.

Parent Signature..... Date.....

Print Name.....