

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE - 28th October 2020

Since the start of the pandemic Stormont School has followed all advice from the Government and professionals to ensure that we were able to support all of the school community.

Key worker children were able to attend school throughout the lockdown by pre-booking. Remote learning was quickly put in to place with live lessons, video lessons and lesson plans available on line, homework set and marked. Communication between parents and staff was continuous ensuring that learning for all the girls was accessible and achievable.

In June, when the Government gave the go ahead for pupils to return to school Stormont opened its doors to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 with live lessons and interventions continuing for the year groups remaining at home. From June 22nd until the end of term we extended our phased return and to all remaining pupils offering opportunities for them to come in to school for part of the week. With over 90% attendance the decision was welcomed by parents enabling families to return to as near normal routine that we could provide in these unprecedented times. The girls also expressed their joy at being back in school.

Throughout the pandemic the School has continually updated policies and risk assessments and put in place procedures in line with guidance received from the Government and the Department for Education. We have increased our House Keeping provision including sanitisation of touch points, lavatories and classrooms frequently throughout the day. Staff and pupils have maintained teaching bubbles and teaching equipment such as books and resources continue to be assigned to bubbles. We have adapted and amended lunch procedures put in place to suit the school setting whilst maintaining social distancing. The drop off and collection arrangements have also been adapted to avoid cross over between bubbles. Staff wear masks when moving around the school and hand sanitiser stations have been installed throughout the school both inside and out with pupils being taught about the importance of hygiene and social distancing.

Parents are unable to enter the school site on foot and visitors to the school are limited and arranged, if possible, out of hours. All visitors are required to wait at the entrance for an escort to the office where they are required to complete a health questionnaire, wear masks and use hand sanitisers. Any children or staff members who show any symptoms of COVID-19 are asked to get a test and self-isolate until a negative result is received and confirmation of tests needs to be shared with the school before returning. Stormont has not had any confirmed COVID-19 cases amongst staff or pupils.

We are confident that all procedures and risk assessments put in place, together with continuous monitoring of procedures and advice issued allow Stormont School to operate and provide a positive and safe learning experience.

Our risk assessments are available in the Policies section of the school website.