

St Thomas of Aquin’s RC High School – Covid 19 changes to school culture

Date: Thursday 1st of October – Updates in purple

St Thomas of Aquin’s Roman Catholic High School is a learning community which ensures a safe, supportive and enjoyable environment where pupils, staff, and parents are inspired and motivated to work hard for one another to fulfil the God-given potential of all pupils.

Self-Discipline

Teamwork

Trust

High expectations

Openness

Mutual Respect

Achieving excellence

Success

St Thomas’ school culture	School values	Information Changes to this guidance will be updated and sent to parents & the school website will be amended
Compassion and renewal	<p>Teamwork</p> <p>Mutual Respect</p>	<p>St Thomas’ recognises that Lockdown has been a difficult period for many pupils, parents and staff. Some of us will understandably feel anxious and apprehensive about our full return to the school building. St Thomas’ will do everything we can to make you all feel safe, supported and welcome.</p> <p>Our nurturing environment and Place2be counselling service will help support all of us.</p>
Health and Safety	<p>Trust</p> <p>Openness</p>	<p>In the event a pupil becomes unwell during the school day they should follow the normal procedures. Our dedicated PSA will assess the pupil and isolate if necessary. To keep everyone safe, parents should not send their child to school if they are ill or presenting any COVID symptoms and follow Test and Protect</p> <p>The most common symptoms are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new continuous cough • fever/high temperature • loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste (anosmia).
The School day	<p>Self-Discipline</p> <p>Trust</p>	<p>The structure of the school day will generally remain unchanged. St Thomas will be staggering the start and finish times for year groups until further notice:</p> <p>S1-S3 pupils are to arrive in the school building from 8.20 to 8.30am with lesson 1 starting at 8.40. S1-S3 pupils will leave the building at 3.20pm from Monday to Thursday and 1.00pm on Fridays.</p> <p>S4-S6 pupils are to arrive in the school building from 8.35 to 8.40am with their lesson 1 starting at 8.45. S4-S6 pupils will leave the building at 3.30pm from Monday to Thursday and 1.10pm on Fridays.</p> <p>There will be no school or year group assemblies. The school will have gatherings of single year groupings of up to 50 pupils to support the changes occurring.</p>

		<p>The school bells have been reduced to</p> <p>8.40 – start of the day</p> <p>10.40 – end of break</p> <p>1.50 – end of lunch</p> <p>3.30 – end of the school day</p>
Interval and Lunches	<p>Self-Discipline</p> <p>Trust</p>	<p>If parents <u>can</u> provide a packed break and lunch for your child please do so. If necessary, a pupil can purchase a packed lunch in school but please be aware that cash is not accepted. Pupils entitled to a free school meal will be provided with one by the school.</p> <p>S1, S2 and S3 pupils will have the choice of eating their break in their lesson 2 and their lunch in their lesson 5 classrooms, use the shared use of the playground or go out of school building for lunch. If S2 and S3 pupils return to the school building prior to the start of lesson 6 then they should return to their lesson 5 classroom during lunchtime.</p> <p>S4-S6 pupils will either be allowed to eat their break and packed lunches in their lesson 2 or lesson 5 classrooms or leave the school building. If S4-S6 pupils return to the school building they must return to the lesson 2 or lesson 5 classroom.</p> <p>As of October 1st, St Thomas' has hired the Sacred Heart Hall at lunchtime for S5 and S6 pupils. The Hall allows for 50 pupils to attend.</p>
The Learning environment	<p>High expectations</p> <p>Success</p>	<p>St Thomas' will continue its focus on the highest quality of learning and teaching. Staff will support and challenge every pupil in their learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am encouraging pupils to wear a face covering in classrooms. All pupils should wear a mask during change of classes and during social times. • I am asking that a 2-metre distance should be maintained between adults and pupils where ever possible. • A St Thomas' Covid-19 learning poster is being drafted and will be placed in every classroom.
Our One-Way system & Toilets	<p>Teamwork</p> <p>Mutual Respect</p>	<p>Apart from our new S1 pupils, all of our returning pupils will have a good understanding of St Thomas' one-way system. It is essential that all pupils follow the system every day.</p> <p>The daily cleaning of toilets has been increased and I am urging all parents to speak with their children about ensuring the toilets are used appropriately, kept tidy, and not vandalised.</p>
School Uniform	<p>High expectations</p>	<p>Uniform plays an important part of St Thomas' inclusive identity. Pupils will be expected to wear full uniform. If there is anything we can help with please let us know. Uniform and PE Kit should be washed regularly.</p>
Better relationships, Better learning, Better behaviour	<p>Mutual Respect</p> <p>Achieving excellence</p>	<p>St Thomas' is a learning community which ensures a safe, supportive and enjoyable environment and we will continue to meet the needs of all pupils as best we can. I am asking Parents to work in partnership with St Thomas' staff to emphasise to their child that they must follow instructions at all times when at school Any behaviour that impacts on the health and wellbeing of the school community will be taken very seriously and acted upon in line with our Better relationships, Better Learning, Better Behaviour policy (found on the school website).</p>
Parent and adult access to school	<p>Openness</p>	<p>To keep St Thomas' as safe as possible I am limiting the access to the building. If parents are wishing to meet with a staff member please email or phone the school Admin team and a telephone meeting can be arranged.</p>

Physical Education	S elf-Discipline T eamwork	On the days when pupils are timetabled for PE they should wear their PE kit to school. No changing facilities will be available. PE lessons will predominantly take place outdoors. In the event of bad weather pupils will be in a classroom.
Active Schools and Extra Curricular Activities	O penness	Until further notice The City of Edinburgh has decided there will be no Active School programme in schools. St Thomas' will not be planning any trips until further notice.