



# St Peter's Church of England Aided School

Quarry Lane, Exeter, EX2 5AP    www.spexe.org    (01392) 204 764    school@spexe.org

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

## Urgent Changes

The following letter aims to do just one thing, to explain how as a community we need to make changes in order to take even greater collective responsibility to support the national lockdown situation.

Given the latest Government announcements this week we are working hard to find practical solutions to the latest challenges we face. **Significant changes will not be made until Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January at the earliest** and we will of course inform you of changes as soon as we can.

**The reason we are making changes to our provision is to support the national emergency and principle of reducing transmission by reducing movement of students and staff between school, thus enabling more people to stay at home.**

There were over 1000 deaths and over 50,000 new cases announced yesterday and the day before. On Monday, Boris Johnson directed schools to move to remote learning in order to reduce transmission of the virus. That message and the very wide criteria for vulnerable children and children of critical workers seem to be in direct contradiction of each other. We all know that the best place for learning is in school, with the teacher face to face and whilst no teacher signed up to the profession to teach remotely we also recognise that as parents, you didn't expect to be supervising your children whilst they complete online learning, and trying to work or look after younger siblings. However, if there are any other arrangements you can make to support our community in reducing the risk of transmission, I am sure that would be appreciated by everyone. If, however you have no other feasible option and still wish to bring your child/ren to school, as long as 1 of you in the household meets the criteria, your children are welcome.

**I respectfully ask that you carefully consider whether you really need the space. The guidance does also say that if parents can have their children at home then they should.**

I also hope you can understand that with the school being open with high numbers of students and staff on site, the risk of transmission is higher which could impact on our communities' health, the staffing and the need for staff and children to isolate in the event of a positive case within the bubble.

*"Limiting attendance does not support that schools and colleges have become significantly less safe for young people. Instead limiting attendance is about supporting the reduction of the overall number of social contacts in our communities. We now need to use every lever at our disposal to reduce all our social contacts wherever possible." DfE 07/01/21*

*'Life to the full for everyone.'*



# St Peter's Church of England Aided School

Quarry Lane, Exeter, EX2 5AP    www.spexe.org    (01392) 204 764    school@spexe.org

The Government have provided **new guidance on 7<sup>th</sup> January** entitled **Restricting attendance at school during the national lockdown.**

This newest document from the Government emphasises the need to reduce students and staff as being potential transmitters of covid and as a result is asking schools to limit the numbers of students and staff on site. **A key change is that parents and carers who are critical key workers should keep their children at home if they can.**

As a result, we are once more needing to review all of our approaches because the numbers of students and staff on site needs to reduce. This will undoubtedly lead to further changes. We will of course update you on these when decisions have been made.

**In the meantime, please help us by completing the following short survey only if you think you definitely qualify using the new definitions below. This will help us understand if you fit with the new government criteria for attendance in school. We are sorry but the information that you have provided to us previously will now be out of date because of the latest Government changes.**

## **Critical workers**

Parents whose [work is critical to the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and EU transition response](#) include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school if required. This includes parents who may be working from home. I am sorry that we will need to ask for evidence that proves parents are critical to the covid-19 and EU transition response if you apply.

## **Vulnerable children and young people**

The definition of [vulnerable children and young people](#) includes children who have a social worker, an education, health and care plan (EHCP) or who may be vulnerable for another reason at local discretion ("otherwise vulnerable").

## **Not getting a place in school**

If you do not qualify for a place in school the DfE guidance of 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021 says that, *"All other pupils and students should not attend and should learn remotely until February Half Term."*

Those students who do not get a place in school from the 18<sup>th</sup> January will be informed as soon as we can and will then work from home remotely. We have learned a lot about remote learning since March and software providers have improved their safeguarding measures too. As a result our remote learning offer is much better than previously.

Please see below feedback from parents which is overwhelmingly positive as a result of improvements we have been able to make.

*"I would just like to express my extreme gratefulness to all that you, and all of the staff, are doing for the students of St. Peter's. The online learning for the past two days has been amazing, as has the support of xx's teachers. I truly appreciate all of your efforts and hard work during such a difficult time. I have e mailed a couple of her teachers and had immediate, and helpful responses. I hope that you all stay safe and manage to enjoy time with your own families when not working so hard for our children. Thank you all so very much."*

*"Thank you so much for all your time and efforts with home-schooling, XX seems to be settling in well to it and I think the fact he sees his friends, albeit fleetingly, is so much better than the last lock down."*



# St Peter's Church of England Aided School

Quarry Lane, Exeter, EX2 5AP    www.spexe.org    (01392) 204 764    school@spexe.org

*"The response from St Peters to remotely learning has been fantastic. Thank you for that and all the support you've given XXX. I appreciate the amount of effort this must have taken. The roll out has been very smooth and well managed."*

*"XX was a little apprehensive the evening before the first day of term, but he was so pleasantly surprised at how smoothly everything was on Zoom (and as you know he's used to this sort of communication which has helped). Today the house has been so calm with him enjoying following the lessons."*

*"I have been at home from work with the boys today and can I say how brilliant all the teachers have done with the Remote learning. XXX was concerned about it being the same as last time but with everyone in class he says it's just like being there."*

*Hats off to you all- well done. Difficult times but you are making it easier for the children. They can see the teachers work, ask questions, interact."*

*Just wanted to say well done and thank you 👍"*

*"Hi, I just wanted to drop you a quick note to say how impressed I was with the running of online school yesterday! Such a huge improvement over the last lockdown. The Zoom lessons were brilliant and it meant that both children had a full day of learning. I really understand the commitment this has taken for teachers and wanted to let you know that it is very much appreciated. Well done and thank you!"*

*"Just want to say a huge thank you and well done for a great first day of Lockdown 3.0. My son, XXX, had a good day and the regular zoom sessions saved him from distractions and kept him motivated and focussed. Really grateful to you all for all your incredible hard work. Absolutely delighted. Many many thanks."*

*"I just wanted to pass on how well I think the zoom classes are working. My daughter in year 9 is much preferring them and they keep her engaged. Thanks to all staff for their continued hard work at educating our children. Well done."*

*"I just wanted to thank you and all the teachers today for such a smooth running day on Zoom. It has been so much better than before when they were left to their own devices with work on Google Classroom."*

*I really appreciate how much work has gone into this and what a commitment you are all making to enable it all to happen."*

*A huge heartfelt thank you (and please pass it on to the other teachers too)."*

**Please complete the following survey ONLY if you think you definitely qualify using the definition earlier in this letter.**

[\*\*CLICK HERE FOR SURVEY\*\*](#)

My hope and prayer is that you are all able to be safe. Thank you for your continued messages of encouragement, we really appreciate them.

Yours faithfully

Phil Randall  
Headteacher