

# Newsletter

Friday 19th November 2021

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Theme for the Week – Love Your Neighbour

To coincide with National Anti-Bullying Week, this week's theme was 'Love your neighbour'. Falling perfectly under our Charity core value, our daily reflections encouraged students to think about what many believe to be the greatest of the Ten Commandments, which St Mark translated as 'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself'. Collective worship shared uplifting examples of 'loving thy neighbour' from around the world and within our own community and also asked students to reflect on their own efforts to demonstrate this love and compassion for one another.

Then in this week's assembly, students heard from a group of students who epitomise this core value; our 1804 Society. They explained to students what our 1804 Society is, it's mission to live out St Julie's vision and how students from other year

### National Anti-Bullying Week



To mark national anti-bullying week, staff and students have been involved in a number of projects designed to raise awareness of the impact of bullying and ways in which we can combat bullying through the promotion of a culture of compassion and charity. Staff and students completed 'kindness slips' nominating someone for an act of kindness that was meaningful to them. Students were also signposted to helpful resources that provide guidance on what to do if they feel that they, or someone they know, is being bullied. We also took the opportunity to remind students how to report bullying to school staff or via our anonymous reporting service [Whisper](#).



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## **Mobile Phones**

Continuing with the theme of bullying and students' mental health and wellbeing, we would like to take this opportunity to respectfully remind all parents of Notre Dame's policy on the use of mobile phones during the school day. I first wrote to you about this in October 2020, outlining the undeniable link between mobile phone use in schools and deterioration in children's mental health. I also shared details of the research on which these links are based and the views of Ofsted who support schools who ban mobile phones on their premises. [[newsletter 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020](#)]

**So to reiterate, at Notre Dame Catholic College, we ask that students refrain from using mobile phones from 8.40 through to 3.00 and strongly encourage that mobile phones are not brought to school.** Mobile phones seen or heard during the school day can and will be confiscated as per the guidelines below, which were recently re-sent to parents and shared with students.

We ask parents and carers to continue to provide for their full support in adhering to this policy. To clarify, we have a fully staffed and trained reception team who can get important messages to your son or daughter in minutes, just like when we were at school ourselves.



### **Notre Dame Catholic College Behaviour Policy Reminder – Mobile Phones**

- Mobile phones are not to be seen or heard in the school grounds during the school day
- If a member of staff sees or hears a mobile phone it will be confiscated and kept until the end of the school day
- If a mobile phone is confiscated more than twice a parent/carers will have to come to school to collect it
- Students should not wear Bluetooth earphones in school – these may be confiscated by staff



- Keep your phone switched off and out of sight (in a bag or blazer!)

#### **Why?**

- Mobile phones have been proven to have a negative impact on student progress and attainment
- Mobile phones are associated with poor mental health
- Mobile phones can be used for anti social purposes- Online bullying, harassment etc.



### **Assessment Point**

As mentioned last week, the week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> November marks the first formal assessment point of the academic year. Assessments will take place in one form or another for every year group in every subject. Some assessments will be conducted in formal examination setting and others will be completed in normal classrooms but under exam conditions. Please see your child's ClassCharts account for full details on their assessment schedule. The results of these assessments will be reported to parents before the end of the term. Thanks in advance for supporting your child in preparing for these assessments.

### **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – 'Amelia's Day'**

And finally, yesterday, parents received information regarding our commemoration of Amelia Roxburgh, who we sadly lost during the summer holiday. This Monday should have been Amelia's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. To honour and celebrate Amelia's life and memory, we are arranging 'Amelia's day' on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021. On this day, we are asking staff and students to wear a bright accessory e.g. hairband, tie, socks, clip. Amelia's favourite colours were bright pink, orange and yellow. Students will be asked to donate 50 pence towards the fundraising. We will also be selling pink and yellow ribbons to raise awareness of Cancer. We are arranging a Cake Sale and we would be grateful for any contributions towards it. Students should leave cakes at the Student Services desk on either Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> or Friday 26<sup>th</sup> morning. All money raised will be donated to Claire's House where Amelia spent her days.

We wish every Notre Dame family a peaceful and safe weekend.  
Mr Duffy



22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021



Dear Parent / Carer,

We are once again seeing worryingly high levels of COVID infections in Liverpool, with highest numbers in school children. The impact of COVID is a risk to everyone. Rising infections will mean more children becoming ill, needing to isolate from their friends, disruption to learning and more strict measures being re-introduced next term in schools.

We wanted to thank you for your support but also urge you to act now. Help us keep your child safe, in school with their friends next term and reduce the future impact of COVID on their lives by taking a few simple steps now.

No measure is perfect and we are recommending a few carefully selected measures, which we feel will have minimal impact on education and are effective at reducing risk of transmission – but for these to work everyone has to play their part now.

Face coverings are recommended for pupils, staff and parents/carers in communal areas in school from next term, but not in classrooms. We also ask that face coverings are worn at pick up and drop off from school, exemptions apply. As we enter winter, the rising levels of cases means this step has become necessary. When you cannot socially distance indoors or in a crowded place wearing a face covering is the most effective way to reduce your risk of infection or spreading the virus.

Even for young people, vaccination is our first line of defence against COVID. By vaccinating 12 to 15 year olds, we hope to limit transmission of COVID, but this will only happen if enough children in each school and class are vaccinated. Consented vaccinations for this age group are scheduled at schools now and until December – you're school will let you know when.

Even if you haven't been testing before, now is the time to start. It is essential that you and your child still use twice-weekly lateral flow tests and report the results (<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>) and when positive let your school know. Continued regular testing over half term will help reduce the risk of infections when returning to school.

Stay COVID safe. A few additional steps will help reduce your risk of infection, keep washing your hands or using alcohol gel, socialise outdoors and when inside ventilate the room. If you develop COVID symptoms, it is essential to isolate immediately, get a PCR test as soon as possible and let the school know.

We wish you all a COVID safe and enjoyable half term.

Yours Sincerely

**Matt Ashton**

Director of Public Health

**Steve Reddy**

Director of Children's Services



# ENRICHMENT

## Liverpool Schools Sports Partnership— Dodgeball Tournament

This week our students took part in the LSSP Dodgeball Tournament which took place at North Liverpool Academy.

Out of the 18 teams, made up from 12 schools, we had 4 teams competing.

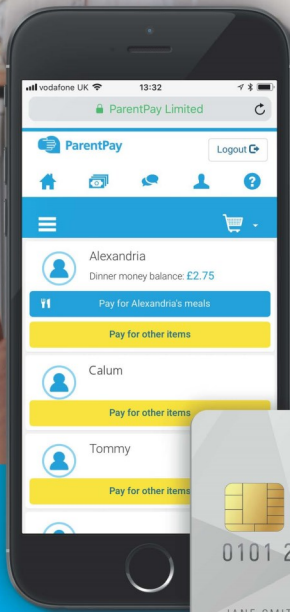
It was fantastic for everyone involved to be back taking part in sports and competing against other local schools



# THE EASY WAY TO PAY

We're using ParentPay so parents  
can easily pay online for school  
dinners, trips and clubs.

**No stress, hassle free.**



**SIMPLE  
QUICK  
SAFE**



[www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)



**ParentPay**  
COUNT ON US

**VISA**

**VISA Checkout**





# SAFEGUARDING REMINDERS



## Important Contacts

If you currently need support for your mental health or well being these are some of the organisations who are happy to listen and help

### Anxiety UK

03444775774 (Helpline)

075374160905 (Text)

### Childline

0800 1111 (Free 24 hr helpline)

### Papyrus Hotline

(Under 35s at risk of suicide or concerned for another)

0800 068 4141

07786209697 (text)

### The Mix

(Support & Advice for under 25s)

0808 068 4994

85258 (Text THEMIX)

### Young Minds

0808 803 5544 (Parent helpline)

85258 (Free 24hr crisis messenger, text YM)

### Young Stonewall

Information & support for young people who identify as LGBTQ

0800 050 2020

### Samaritans

Support for anyone who needs to talk

116 123 (Call)

### Bullybusters

0800 169 6928

**Please refer to the school website for further contact details/ websites**

## If you feel a child is at risk

**(suffering harm, neglect or abuse)**

Any member of the public can contact

Careline on 0151 233 3700 or

Merseyside Police on 0151 709 6010

## CAMHS Crisis Care Team

Supporting children and young people in crisis regarding self-harm, suicidal ideation and acute mental health difficulties. Speak to a mental health practitioner 24hrs/day

## Childline - [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

• Childline is available to you if you have any concerns about:

- Bullying
- Abuse (physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, neglect)
- Your body and self esteem
- Your feelings
- Friendships
- Sexual advice
- Home life and families
- School

• You can ring them on 0800 1111 or message them online here <https://www.childline.org.uk/registration/>

• There are loads of resources available for you to download and read as well <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/>



## Domestic Abuse/Violence

Please remember, in an emergency dial 999 for immediate assistance.

**You can call 999 without speaking then pressing 55, or tapping or coughing into the phone.**

**This will enable police to respond**

### Women's Aid

0808 2000 247 (24 hr helpline)

### Men's Advice Line

0808 801 0327

### Worst Kept Secret Helpline Merseyside

0800 028 3398



# SAFEGUARDING

## CONTACT US

Email: [sg@notredame.liverpool.sch.uk](mailto:sg@notredame.liverpool.sch.uk)

Emails are answered within 24 hrs Mon—Fri 9-3

Phone: 0151 330 5122

PC P Wood Schools Safer Police Officer

## The Safeguarding Team

Headteacher – Mr P Duffy  
Deputy Headteacher - Mrs AM Costello

### Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs E Brennan – Senior Assistant Headteacher

## Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

Mrs J Littleboy – Assistant Head of Year  
Mr D McKeon – Leadership - Director of Behaviour  
Mr A McVerry – Leadership - SENCO

PC P Wood – school's safer police officer  
Leadership/ Alternative Provision – Miss H McCullen  
Attendance Officer – Mrs P Shrimpton  
Special Educational Needs – Mrs K Sweeney  
Pastoral Assistant Heads of Year – Ms R Glorman Y7, Mrs Doran Y8, Mrs E Garvey Y10, Miss C Lee Y11





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around a billion users worldwide.

## AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young teens acting in a sexually suggestive way. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – and since TikTok Jump's introduction in mid-2021, users can view third-party content outside the app.

18

CENSORED

## EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and then be inclined to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.

W&H\*!

## TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities: Charli D'Amelio and Lil Nas X, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more teens attempting to go viral and become "TikTok famous". While most aspiring stars hoping to be 'the next big thing' will find it difficult, setbacks may in turn prompt them to go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.



## HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY

Connecting with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but – because of its abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.

## ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social media, TikTok is designed to be addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to put down. As well as the punchy nature of the short video format, the app's ability to keep users intrigued about what's coming next mean it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.

## IN-APP SPENDING

There's an in-app option to purchase 'TikTok coins', which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. Prices range from 99p to an eye-watering £99 bundle. TikTok is also connected with Shopify, which allows users to buy products through the app.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above TikTok's age limit, talk to them about what they've viewed on the app. Ask their opinion on what's appropriate and what isn't. Explain why they shouldn't give out personal details or upload videos which reveal information like their school or home address. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social-media savvy.

### MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

The default setting for all under 16s' accounts to 'private'. Keeping it that way is the safest solution: it means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The 'Stitch' (which lets users splice clips from other people's videos into their own) and 'Duet' (where you build on another user's content by recording your own video alongside their original) features are now only available to over 16s. This might clash with your child's ambitions of social media stardom, but it will fortify their account against predators.

### LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING

With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe space. However, in case something does slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block individual users through their profile.

### ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

'Family Pairing' lets parents and carers link their own TikTok account to their child's. Through your mobile, you can control your child's safety settings remotely – including limiting screen time, managing their ability to exchange messages (and with whom) and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content. TikTok's Safety Centre also provides resources for parents and carers to support online safety among families. These resources can be found on their website.

### USE RESTRICTED MODE

In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' section, you can filter out inappropriate content (specific content creators or hashtags, for instance) using 'Restricted Mode'. This can then be locked with a PIN. You should note, though, that the algorithm moderating content isn't totally dependable – so it's wise to stay aware of what your child is watching.

### MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child to manage their time on it in the 'Digital Wellbeing' section. Under 'Screen Time Management', you can limit the daily permitted time on the app (in increments ranging from 40 minutes to two hours). This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can get their regular dose of TikTok without wasting the whole day.

## Meet Our Expert

Parveen Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



**National Online Safety®**  
#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES TikTok, app



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 03.11.2021



# WHISPER



whisper@ndcc

Who can use whisper@ndcc? *parents/carers/students*



- Do you need to inform the safeguarding team about a safeguarding issue?
- Would you like to do it anonymously?
  - \*Neglect \* Abuse \* **Bullying** \*Sexual harassment \*Peer on Peer abuse \*Threats
  - \***Criminal exploitation** \*Drugs/Alcohol \***Worried about a friend**
- Use the QR code to access the online form or <https://forms.office.com/r/WfTPCfWANz>
- You can either fill in your name on the form or you can fill out the information anonymously – it is up to you! If you fill out your name and leave a contact number we will contact you.
- We **all** have a responsibility to help our young people before they come to harm
- The online reports will be monitored during term time and will be checked on a daily basis Monday to Friday
- **Remember – if someone is at risk you should phone Careline 0151 2333700 , if it is an emergency phone 999**

# COVID ADVICE

Schools have been communicating directly with families and carers and keeping their individual websites updated and should always be the first place to go for advice about plans for getting back into the classroom.

However, we have put together the following frequently asked questions to answer some of the general questions about going back to school...

## **How do the [self-isolation changes of 16 August](#) affect school attendance?**

If children and young people (aged 18 years & 6 months and under) have not tested positive for Covid, and they are not otherwise ill they are expected to be in school.

Anyone aged under 18 and 6 months who has been a close contact of someone who has tested positive is no longer required to self-isolate unless the child also has symptoms. They are advised to take a PCR test but they do not have to isolate whilst they wait for the results.

Students who are aged 18 years & 6 months and over will be treated as adults under the guidance and will not be expected to self-isolate if they have had a close contact provided they have received both Covid vaccinations and 14 days have passed since the second dose.

You can find out where drop-in Covid vaccination clinics are on [Liverpool CCG's website](#).

## **I think my child has Covid, what should I do?**

If your child has symptoms, [please book a PCR test](#) and isolate until you have the results. If you receive a positive test result the child should self-isolate following the national guidance. If you need support whilst your family is self-isolating there is information on the [council's website](#).

## **Will children still be expected to take lateral flow tests (LFTs)?**

Testing is voluntary, but it is encouraged as it is still one of the best ways to break the chain of infection.

We're encouraging secondary school pupils to take an LFT **before** they return to school.

When schools return, government guidance will be followed:

**Nursery and primary school children** – Do not need to take LFTs.

**Secondary school pupils and college students** – In the first week of term, two LFTs will be taken at school three to five days apart. In following weeks, two LFTs to be taken at home each week until the end of September.

## **Will testing continue after the end of September?**

There will be a national review of all testing in September 2021 and this will inform the role of testing in school and other settings



## **What should I do if my child has a positive result on a lateral flow test?**

They should self-isolate immediately and you should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

Other members of the household do not need to self-isolate whilst you await the PCR test result if they do not have symptoms and are aged under 18 years or are fully vaccinated.

## **Will pupils still be part of bubbles?**

Bubbles were introduced to limit contact between groups. Schools are no longer required to do this, but they may be considered if there is an outbreak at the school.

## **What happens if there are positive cases in schools?**

All schools and colleges are required to have outbreak management plans. Action may need to be taken if certain thresholds are met. If risks change significantly the Director of Public Health is able to implement further or different measures to protect population health.

## **Will school continue to inform us if there are positive cases in school?**

Public Health England are currently advising schools that it is not necessary to send *warn and inform* letters for each pupil case. Parents will be informed if additional controls from the outbreak management plan need to be put in place.

Meanwhile schools will continue to maintain COVID prevention measures. This includes maximising ventilation, encouraging good hygiene, thorough cleaning and ensuring that anyone with COVID symptoms or positive test results do not come in to school.

## **Will children be made to have a vaccination?**

No-one will be made to have a vaccination, but having both doses of the vaccination is still the best way of preventing people from becoming very ill with Covid-19.

The national vaccination programme is now open to anyone aged 16 and over. Sixteen and 17-year-olds will be contacted by their GPs and are not able to book vaccinations online.

## **I would like my child to have a vaccination as there is someone in my household who is vulnerable but my child is younger than 16.**

Vaccinations are being offered to 12-15-year-olds if they have an underlying health condition or if someone they live with is immunosuppressed. You should speak to your child's GP.

## **Will my child have to wear a face covering in the classroom?**

Guidance states that face coverings do not need to be worn in the classroom. But if your child travels to school or college on public transport that is crowded and they can't socially distance it is a good idea to wear a face covering if they are able.

Parents are encouraged to wear face coverings at the school gates particularly if social distancing isn't possible.

## **Will normal school activities now be taking place?**

Yes, activities such as sports, singing, playing wind or brass instruments, and going on trips and excursions are now allowed to take place.

## **My child is anxious about returning to school is there any support?**

The last year and a half has been especially tough for our children and young people. If your child is worried about returning to the classroom please speak to the school in the first instance. They can also get help and advice online such as at [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

# ATTENDANCE & UNIFORM

## Attendance and Punctuality

The school's attendance officer is Mrs P Shrimpton

From 3rd September 2021 all students are expected to attend school.

All students should arrive at school before 8:40 a.m. to ensure they have enough time to be at their form classes for 8:45 a.m. Parents/carers must ensure that students leave home in plenty of time to get to school on time.

Breakfast - Students are able to have breakfast in school after 8 a.m. in the lower canteen

Appointments - Please do not make medical / dental appointments for students during school hours. Any appointments during school time will only be authorised with a letter or appointment card.

Holidays - Term Dates are included in this newsletter - please do not book holidays during term times. Any holidays booked during term time will be unauthorised unless with the prior agreement of the headteacher.

## Pastoral Team

If you need to speak to a member of the pastoral team you can contact them via class charts messages.

Mrs Brennan - Senior Assistant Headteacher

Mr McKeon - Leadership Team / Director of Behaviour

Mr Campbell - Leadership Team / Director of Behaviour

**Year 7** - Head of Year - Miss Wishart Assistant Head of Year - Ms Glorman

**Year 8** - Head of Year - Mr Appleton Assistant Head of Year - Mrs Doran

**Year 9** - Head of Year - Mrs Crosslind Assistant Head of Year - Mrs Littleboy

**Year 10** - Head of Year - Mr Bond Assistant Head of Year - Mrs Garvey

**Year 11** - Head of Year - Mrs Smith Assistant Head of Year - Ms Lee

## Uniform standards

Please find attached the appropriate shoe guidance which is part of our school uniform. Parents/carers were provided with a letter regarding uniform and the details of appropriate shoes in the summer term. The information is also available on the school website. If pupils come into school with the wrong footwear from Monday 6th September 2021 they will be given an alternative pair of shoes provided by school. Any queries please speak to your son/daughter's Head of Year.

## ACCEPTABLE AND NON-ACCEPTABLE SHOES



**Polishable Shoe  
Black**



**Polishable Shoe  
Black**



**Polishable Shoe  
Black**



**Plain Black Patent**



**Polishable Shoe  
Black**



**Polishable Shoe  
Black**



**Polishable Shoe  
Black**



**Non-Polishable Shoe  
Trainer**



**Embellishment not same colour as shoe  
Embellishment not flat to shoe  
Open toe**



**Embellishment not same colour as shoe**