



Thomas Johnson Lower School

Dream - Discover - Flourish

School Admission Protocol during National Lockdown

January 2021

Rationale for Bubble/Class Size

At the time of the first National Lockdown in March, the school adopted a bubble size which permitted 2 metres distancing between pupils and ensured that teachers could teach at a distance of 2 metres from the children. Relatively small classrooms meant that application of these criteria led to a **Bubble size of 10**. During this latest lockdown, particularly in light of the apparent virulence of the so-called British variant, bubble sizes are set at the same number.

As cases in the community fall this will provide the school with the flexibility to admit more children when advised by Public Health Officials that it is safe to do so.

The bubble size will be reviewed regularly by the Senior Leadership Team with the first

When reviewing the bubble size the factors which will be considered are:-

- National rate of transmission and trend
- Local rate of transmission and trend
- Number of local cases and trend
- Changes to requirements of National Lockdown and how they may apply to the local area
- Rates of staff absence
- Pupil Attendance

Admission Criteria

Should there be more applications than places, the following criteria will be used to determine how places are allocated:

Pupil Vulnerability

The school will prioritise the following vulnerable children before critical workers:

- Children or young people with a Child Protection Plan, Looked After Children and children with Education, Health and Care Plans
- Children previously on a Child Protection Plan or previously Looked After
- Those with a special guardianship order
- Children with a Child in Need Plan

Children with other special educational needs (Stage 1 and 2) may be offered a place in school, or may be offered additional support at home.

Critical Worker Status

The school accepts the definition of critical workers as set out in the DfE document “**Children of critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings**”, published 8th January 2021. Should there be more applications than places, the following criteria will be used to determine how places are allocated:-

- Child of a single parent critical workers or where both parents are critical workers
- Child where one of the parents is a critical worker

Applications by any critical keyworker will be accepted whilst bubble sizes remain below 10.

When demand exceeds the 10 place limit, parents, including those with children already in the provision, will be asked to complete a Critical Key Worker application form. This will request information regarding the nature of work and Critical Worker status of the parent(s)/Carer(s). A triage system will then be applied to ensure that priority is given according to the nature and pattern of work as well as the criteria given above. If possible, **even the children of critical keyworkers should remain at home.**

Once a cohort is full, the school would seek a place at a neighbouring school with places in the appropriate year group.