



RESPECT  
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## Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School

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Ms K. Smyth Headteacher

KS/LL

1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

### COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

We are grateful for the support and understanding we have received from parents and carers following our return this school year. Our initial whole school testing programme was carried out efficiently and effectively. We have continued to offer tests with home testing kits being provided. We believe that these measures, alongside those detailed in our risk assessment, have kept outbreaks low. As you may have anticipated, we are now being asked to become a centre for student vaccinations as well as testing.

The information below details the rationale behind this decision. There is also a link to a form which will allow you to inform us as to whether you consent to this vaccination or not.

In line with the DHSC's decision on Monday 13 September, the NHS has written to organisations that provide school-age immunisation services ('SAIS' providers), setting out what they must do to make sure all children aged 12 to 15 are offered a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination before the October half-term break. Providers are working with local GP Practices and Primary Care Networks, to arrange clinic dates which will be carried out on school premises under government guidelines.

At this time, Chief Medical Officer's advise that 12–15 -year-olds should be offered a first dose only, which will be of the Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty) vaccine, the only vaccine currently authorised for those aged 12-15.

The vaccine is safe, quick and effective. It does not give people the COVID-19 virus and does not contain any animal products.

This group are the latest to become eligible for the life-saving jab. More than 88% of adults aged over 18 have had both doses, and more than 56% of 16- and 17-year-olds have now received a first dose (matching JCVI's current recommendation) since this group were invited in mid-August. With the number of sites available to 16- and 17-year-olds growing all the time, it has never been easier for people in that age group to get a jab at a time and place convenient for them.

Children do not need to be registered with a GP or have an NHS number to be vaccinated.

We have enclosed information about the vaccination and what to expect after the vaccination, for Students and their Caregivers to consider, along with a consent form link below with pre-screening questions which **must** be completed for the team to carry out the vaccination. We'd like to make it clear



that no vaccinations will be administered without explicit consent being given via the covid vaccination consent form link below;

<https://forms.merseycare.nhs.uk/covid-19-vaccination/>

We realise that for some people this will be a difficult decision. Please do contact your GP or a medical professional should you need further information. As a school, we will simply be providing a location for the vaccination. We will not be able to advise you on whether to consent or to offer any additional information around this vaccination.

Please complete the consent form by Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021 indicating if you would or would not like your child to receive the vaccine.

Yours sincerely

*K. Smyth*

Ms K Smyth  
**Headteacher**