

# ON-SITE HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY:

This year PCS will be relying on the simple phrase “Screen & Clean” which reminds us to take the steps necessary to further mitigate the risk of the virus within our school.

Through daily screening and cleaning, we will work to ensure that all students on-site are healthy and safe. Additionally, PCS will be adhering to 4 guiding principles for health and safety. These guiding principles reflect the standards, procedures and protocols PCS is implementing for our reopening in the fall.



## 1. Maintaining a Clean & Healthy School Environment



**Hand Sanitizing Stations**



**Frequent Sanitization of High-Touch Surfaces**



**Classrooms Cleaned and Disinfected Nightly**



**Deep Clean Spraying Midday - Every Day**

### Safety Procedures

Returning to school is going to look and feel different for us. PCS is implementing many changes to support best practices necessary for school to reopen safely. To ensure everyone is familiar with these changes, along with our new safety protocols and guidelines, PCS is providing all students and employees with training for screening. Faculty and staff will receive training prior to the re-opening of the school. Students will be trained during the first week of school. This training week is affectionately called "boot camp". It reviews numerous procedures related to the school. Teachers lovingly remind students about their responsibilities and behaviours at PCS.

## **Safety Signage**

Pickering Christian School will post signs in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs (such as by properly washing hands).



## **2. Student Cohorts**

A cohort is a group of students identified by their grade. At some point, the cohort may expand to include one other class cohort. (JK/SK as an example). As students come back to the school they will remain in their cohort with minimal interaction with the other grades. This is to reduce the number of individuals who they will come in contact with while they are at the school.

Scheduling of classes will be done to minimize interaction in the bathrooms and hallways. Shared classes will be kept to a minimum. While close proximity may be unavoidable between members of a cohort, general infection prevention and control practices will be maintained where possible.

## **3. Maintaining Physical Distancing**

Under medical acknowledgment it has been deemed almost impossible for students, especially the youngest, to maintain the required distance. Class positioning during activities will try to create a structure that will encourage distancing when possible. A school wide “boot camp” will kick off the school year in the fall. At this point children will receive a range of manageable guidelines. These guidelines will be placed in their class “Code of Cooperation” and will be reviewed every Monday for the rest of the year. Additionally, a variety of seating methods will continue to be used in classrooms and appropriate spacing will be enhanced.

In terms of circle/carpet time, each age group will have circle time look differently, and teachers will provide a method that will assist in social distancing.

Outdoor activities will be encouraged to mitigate the risks of transmission. Therefore, classes will be allowed to play within their cohort while on recess. Teachers will be encouraged to use the outdoors for classtime.



# 4. Additional Cautionary Measures: The School Environment

▶ Staff will receive training on how to detect the symptoms of Covid-19. Any students who exhibit signs or symptoms will have their temperature checked as an additional precaution. If Covid-19 is suspected, the student will be discreetly removed from the class and sent to a designated area. Here they will be outfitted with PPE and monitored. Parents will be contacted to come and pick up their child. A re-entry protocol will be required for the student to return.



▶ The administration of PCS will make the best efforts possible to maintain a safe environment by carefully monitoring all those who enter the premises, particularly those who come indoors. This will help to mitigate the transmission of any viruses or other harmful infectious diseases.

▶ Cohort staggered movements in the hallways and separation in the playground will be implemented.

▶ Student supply lists will be sent home to all parents. Supplies provided by parents will not be shared among students.

▶ Outdoor activities will be encouraged, especially in physical education classes.

▶ There will be some restrictions on items being brought back and forth from home.



▶ Student desks and tables will be arranged to reduce face-to-face positioning and maximize physical distancing measures.

▶ Students will use only their own assigned tablets or Chromebooks. The school has invested in more devices so that each student has their own assigned device.

▶ Classroom materials and furniture are minimized for more space and less surface contamination.

▶ All students are encouraged to bring a water bottle. A touchless refill station is available by the washroom corridor.