



St. Paulinus Catholic Primary School

Inspiring all to live, learn and love in the light of Jesus.

(cf John 8:12)



Friday 26th March 2021

Polling station – school closed Thursday 6th May 2021

Dear parent/ guardian/ carer,

Since the National announcement that polling day was going ahead, myself and the local councillors have been very busy behind the scenes putting reasons to the electoral department as to why St Paulinus should not be used as a polling station. These reasons included giving the department a list of 7 other venues that could be used instead of us - including suggesting that a porta-cabin or marquee could be used instead on the school site so that members of the public were not coming into the school building. Unfortunately, Electoral Services deemed that none of the other buildings or options were suitable. Electoral services has the legal right to close your school in order for you to be a Polling station and so we have little choice but to be one.

Once it became clear that we were to be a polling station, we immediately risk assessed the situation and it has been deemed that it would not be safe to open to pupils on that day because Electoral services will need to use the main hall. This would mean no access to the offices for liaising with parents or other services and that no meals would be provided for the children. It would also mean that emergency services would not have clear access to the children if anything were needed. As such, Kirklees has granted us special circumstances to close on that day and hold a remote learning day instead.

School will be open the day before and the day after polling station day and these days will count towards their attendance marks as always. The school will be thoroughly cleaned before the children return to make it safe for them to use those rooms. Members of the public will not be able to get into any areas other than the main hall and the staff toilets so the children's zones will be kept safe from possible transmission of the virus and the rooms will be aired out before we all return.

So what can you do?

As mentioned we have no choice in the matter and the school has to be used as a polling station, however, Electoral Services did mention that there will be a review of boundaries and buildings used for polling stations coming up soon. If, like us, you would prefer that school is no longer a polling station, there will be an opportunity for your voice to be heard as part of that consultation. You can also contact your local MP about it, who will also be able to represent that view for you.

If you have any further questions, please do phone and ask me after the holidays and I will try my best to answer them. Kirklees are aware that the School is unhappy about the decision and appreciates the difficulties we face because of it. They are also happy to answer any queries regarding the school being used if you would prefer to contact them directly.

Thank you for your continued support of the school during these unprecedented circumstances,

Miss Hayes
(Headteacher)

'An outstanding school, which is deeply committed to the Catholic mission... this school inspires all within this faith community to live life to the full.' Ofsted 2017

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