



# **Covid-19 Mitigation Plan**

September 2021



AMBRIT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

# From the Director

As we prepare for the reopening of our school in September 2021 we wanted to share our plans to safely welcome back our students and staff. We will be following the general principles adopted last year with a few tweaks based on recommendations and experience.

Our approach is based on an acknowledgement that the school environment is the best place for students to learn, and that we are fully able to have this happen in a safe environment in which important precautions and modifications are in place.

All our staff, including bus and meal staff, will have the now legally required Covid Green Pass.

This document is based on our understanding of the current situation in Italy and on both international best practices and government guidance here in Italy. It relies on the guidelines published by the MIUR and the reference papers produced by the government's own scientific advisory council. Such advice may change with the requirements of the developing situation, and we are prepared to adapt as necessary. We trust in your support and cooperation.

*Giovanni Piccolo*

# Our Approach to Schooling during an ongoing Pandemic

We will ensure that all procedures are in place to provide for student and staff health and safety.

We will ensure that our procedures fully conform to all government mandates and strictly follow the guidelines shared by the government's scientific advisory board.

We will have the necessary flexibility to adapt and change our procedures and guidelines in order to match the possible changes in requirements that worsening conditions may bring.  
Student safety is our main priority.

# Social Distancing - Guiding Principles



Social distancing at school will be based on the following guiding principles:

- Arrival will continue to use additional entry points for students in the morning in order to avoid congestion and crowding. Primary (Gr 2-5) and Middle School parents will not be allowed past the gate in the morning;
- Dismissal from the front garden will continue in order to avoid crowding and Primary and Middle School parents will not be allowed in the main building in the afternoon;
- Body temperature will be measured for every student and staff entering the school in the morning;
- Students over the age of six will wear a mask when moving around the school building and classrooms and may be removed during PE and during meal times;
- All staff will wear masks at all times in school;
- We will continue to provide 1m distance between students in classrooms and during meal times;
- In-school traffic will be guided by signage to indicate one-way sections and differentiated lanes;
- Additional spaces will be made available to students across the school.

# Social Distancing - Arrival



In order to avoid staggered arrival times, please refer to the sections below for arrival and dismissal information. Children cannot arrive at school before 8:00 am and must go to their appointed meeting place before 8:30. Primary and MS children arriving after 8:30 should enter the school through the main gate and the front entrance. Only parents/guardians of Early Childhood students (Nursery, Kinder & Prep) and G1 students may enter the school grounds at arrival. Parents/guardians of students in G2-G8 will drop students at the appointed exterior school gate (main or side).

Parents queuing outside the gates must maintain appropriate social distancing and wear masks. Parents (EC and Gr 1) and all visitors must wear a mask on school grounds.

## Early Childhood (Nursery, Kinder & Prep)

Parents/guardians arriving by car may access the gate on Via Tajani past the main entrance to the road that leads to the rear parking near EC. Children should be handed over to teachers at the exterior gate to the EC Reflection Garden. If not using the rear parking, parents should enter through the main school gate and walk around the exterior of the building to the left (past the big and small pitches) to the back of the school and the exterior gate to the EC Reflection Garden.

*If raining: Same procedure.*

# Social Distancing - Arrival

## Primary



### **Gr 1**

Students/parents/guardians enter by the main school gate and go to the exterior entrance to the Adventure playground. Parents/guardians may not enter the Adventure playground with their child.

*If raining: Students go in the main building entrance and go to the gym.*

### **Gr 2-3**

Students enter by the main school gate and go to the first exterior gate to the Big Pitch and leave their bags at designated class line up areas.

*If raining: Students go in the main building entrance and go to the gym.*

### **Gr 4-5**

Students enter by the side gate on Via Tajani past the main entrance to the road that leads to the back entrance of the small pitches. Students must walk to the right in the designated walkway. G5 students will stay on the small pitch closest to the road entrance. G4 students will line up on the small pitch closer to the school building.

*If raining: Students go in the main building entrance and go to the gym.*

# Social Distancing - Arrival



## Middle School

Students enter by the main school gate and go to the front small pitch or gardens near the Dome depending on availability.

*If raining: Students go to the theatre.*

# Social Distancing - Dismissal



At dismissal parents/guardians will be able to access the school grounds but not the building and must remain in their designated areas and wear a mask. We have shared a map highlighting designated areas below. Any child not collected by 15:45 should be collected on the Adventure playground via the exterior gate. Please bring an umbrella on rainy days as the dismissal procedures on the parents side will remain the same.

## Early Childhood (Nursery, Kinder & Prep)

Same as arrival, however parents will not have access to the back parking at dismissal due to buses. Parents/guardians need to enter school grounds through the main gate and walk around the exterior of the building to the left (past the big and small pitches) to the back of the school and the exterior gate to the EC Reflection Garden. Children can be collected starting at 15:15. Once parents have collected their child from EC they should leave the school premises, children are not permitted to play in other areas; the pitches or adventure playground.



# Social Distancing - Dismissal



## Primary

### **Gr 1-2**

Teachers will dismiss students through the exterior gate of the Adventure playground.

### **Gr 3-4**

Teachers will dismiss students from the gate of the front pitch or under the fire escape in the side gardens near the Dome depending on availability.

### **Gr 5**

Teachers will dismiss students from the area in front of the Dome.

## Middle School

Teachers will dismiss students from inside the school Atrium. Parents will need to wait in front of the main building door.

# Dismissal Map Gr 1-8



# Social Distancing - Bus Service



We are in close contact with our bus service provider and are working on guaranteeing door-to-door morning and afternoon services as well as our late bus service.

All drivers, *accompagnatori* and students will have their temperature measured on boarding, and students over the age of six will need to wear a mask during transfers.

Our drivers will wear compulsory face masks and gloves, and all buses will be sanitised daily to comply with Covid-19 health and safety protocols.

For further information please contact [buses@ambrit-rome.com](mailto:buses@ambrit-rome.com)

# Social Distancing - Middle School Classroom



Modifications to our Middle School schedule will allow students to remain in single classrooms as much as possible each day. Students will need to change class for PE, Art, Design and occasionally for Language, Science and Music. Specialist rooms will be sanitized after each lesson. This is aimed at reducing congestion and crowding between lessons in narrow corridors and walkways.

All our classrooms have been cleared of non-essential furniture and desks have been organised to guarantee the necessary distance between students as recommended by the government's own scientific advisory committee. A mix of single and trapezoidal desks will be used as appropriate.

Students will need to bring all the necessary stationary and mathematical equipment from home as shared equipment will not be allowed. MS students will have access to their cubbies at designated times during the day.

Teachers and students will wear masks in class.

# Social Distancing - Primary Classroom



Students in Primary will work in their designated classrooms at assigned seats. Primary classrooms have been freed of non-essential furniture and seating arrangements will allow for social distancing when seated as required by government guidelines.

Art and Music classes will be held both in classroom spaces and specialist classrooms which will be sanitised after each use.

Students in Primary will be required to wear a mask.

In order to limit the use of shared equipment, students will need to bring a well stocked pencil case each day. Details are shared below.

Students in Gr 5 will be allowed to bring in a personal iPad/Tablet/Small Laptop. This will limit the use of shared digital devices and allow students to access our online learning tools, and submit digital work in class. This is not a requirement, and all voluntary devices will need to follow the school's *acceptable use of technology* agreement, be registered with the classroom teacher, and are brought to school at the student's own risk.

# Primary Personal Supplies



Item	Compulsory/Optional	Grade level
Pencil case (labelled with name)	Compulsory	All
Pencils	Compulsory	All
Eraser	Compulsory	All
Pencil sharpener	Compulsory	All
Coloring pencils (pack of 6 or 12 colors)	Compulsory	All
Coloring markers (pack of 6 or 12 colors)	Compulsory	All
Child safe scissors	Compulsory	All
Glue stick	Compulsory	All
Colored highlighter (yellow, green or pink)	Compulsory	G3-5
Handwriting Pens (blue or black ink)	Compulsory	G3-5
30cm ruler	Compulsory	G2-5
Basic calculator	Optional	G3-5
iPad or similar device*	Optional	G4-5

\*Any device brought into school is subject to the school's responsible use agreement and the school would be unable to accept responsibility for lost or damaged devices.



# Social Distancing - In Early Childhood



In Early Childhood students will remain in their class groups during the course of the day. Students will use their dedicated classroom, and designated space in the reflection garden for outside play and learning. They will not come into contact with EC students from other classes and will eat in the lunchroom in class groupings. PE, Art and Music classes will be held both in their designated spaces and common areas such as the gym or atelier, and these will be sanitised after each use.

Students will not be allowed to bring games and equipment from home but will have manipulatives and learning resources sanitized after each day.

Ambrit, in complete agreement with the government scientific advisory committee, recognises the impossibility of reconciling strict social distancing at the Early Childhood level and the socio-educational needs of students at this particular age. Limiting interactions at school within a single class group reduces the risk of exposure, provides faster tracking if needed and allows for a more natural learning environment for our youngest learners. This form of Social Bubbling is in line with the latest government guidelines for Early Childhood education.

Our EC students will not need to wear a mask at school, both in class and while moving around the school building.

# Social Distancing - Moving Around the School



All staff and students over the age of six will be required to wear a mask while moving around the school. In order to guarantee safety and limit crowding, clear signage will be displayed indicating when needed:

- One-way traffic in narrow corridors and walkways;
- Clear lane directions in wider spaces such as the school atrium;
- Designated *up* and *down* stairs;
- Designated *entry* and *exit* doors;
- Designated seats in the lunchroom.

In addition, we will be using additional exterior staircases in order to avoid congestion, and will always require students to walk in single file keeping the required distance from each other. All indoor spaces will be ventilated continuously.

Lunch, break, and dismissal times will be staggered and we will make use of alternative paths and exits to avoid crowding.

In order to provide additional spaces, extra gyms are available for PE and group work as needed.



# Social Distancing - Break Times



We will continue to stagger our break times in order to reduce the number of students occupying our outdoor spaces. We are fortunate to have three 5-on-5 and one 8-on-8 football pitches for our older students and our Grace Novielli Adventure Playground and Reflection Garden for our younger learners. These wide outdoor spaces will allow for continued distancing during break times.

Although the science confirms that transmission rates for COVID-19 are significantly reduced outdoors, we will supervise students and organise safe activities for them during break time to promote social distancing.

Moving to and from break times will be staggered and students will maintain distancing while walking out to their designated break areas

# Social Distancing - Lunch Time



In order to provide a safe lunch environment, we will continue to stagger our lunch times in four distinct moments with time to sanitise the spaces between sessions:

- Early Childhood;
- Grades 1 & 2;
- Grades 3,4 & 5;
- Middle School.

Our EC and Gr 1-2 students will eat in the lunchroom each day, while our Gr 3-8 students will alternate eating in the lunchroom and in their classroom on a weekly rotation. Seating arrangements in both classrooms and the lunchroom will guarantee the appropriate 1m distance between students.

The lunchroom will be continuously ventilated, additional cleaning in the classrooms at meal times will be implemented and our catering staff will be provided with appropriate PPE including masks and gloves.

Classroom meals will be provided in sealed, reusable lunch-trays to comply with Covid-19 health and safety protocols and continue our single use plastic reduction campaign.

# PPE - For Students and Staff



Student over the age of six will need to always have two masks at school and will be required to wear it at all times when moving around the school building.

All School staff will be provided with disposable masks each day, The school will provide gloves for staff in particular roles as needed.

Our staff will remind students on basic mask wearing guidelines, and signage around the school will reinforce these procedures.

# Hand-Washing - Routines and Equipment



The World Health Organisation lists hand-washing and sanitising as a fundamental preventative measure. In order to facilitate hygiene we have installed sanitising gel dispensers in each classroom and installed a hand-washing station in the Adventure Playground. This is aimed at reducing crowding and congestion in the student bathrooms and support our social distancing measures.

Students will be required to use the gel each time they enter a classroom, before and after physical activities and before meal times. Students will receive instructions for their hand-washing schedules and routines and appropriate signage will remind them of best practices.

# School Cleaning - Procedures



Daily cleaning and sanitising of the school facilities will follow all state guidelines, and the school will undergo a deep cleaning prior to the arrival of our staff and students at the end of August.

Our cleaning staff will be sanitising classrooms, bathrooms and common spaces during the day, and cleaning kits will be made available in classrooms and common staff areas for extra use.

# Procedures for Suspected Infection



In case of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 within our school community we will follow governmental indications and guidelines as we did last year. These may change and we will communicate these changes accordingly.

In the case of students exhibiting symptoms at school, we will proceed to quarantine the student and will request immediate collection from parents. Following guidelines we will collaborate with the local health authorities to track possible infection and inform families.

Communication of possible contact and further quarantine will follow state guidelines aimed at guaranteeing safety and privacy of families.

# Pastoral Care and Student Well-Being



Ambrit will strive to create a sense of safety, calm and self- and collective-efficacy while promoting social connectedness and hope in overcoming the challenges before us. We will offer help and guidance in a number of forms:

- Teachers and counselors will closely monitor student emotional health and contact parents to arrange support.
- Teachers will be given training on resilience and self-care.
- We will enhance our Personal, Social and Physical Education (PSPE) curriculum to include lessons on resilience, self-care and health and hygiene related to Covid-19.
- Parent meetings via Zoom will focus on how parents can best support their children's emotional health during these difficult times.

Please contact our school counselor, Ms. Pascale Salomon before school reopens if your child has experienced any loss related to Covid-19 or otherwise. Please also inform Ms. Pascale of children who are or have experienced anxiety or emotional distress during this period. Parents are welcome to contact Ms. Pascale for more information related to pastoral care by email or to schedule an appointment via Zoom.

[pascale.salomon@ambrit-rome.com](mailto:pascale.salomon@ambrit-rome.com)

# Parental Declaration



In consultation with other schools in our professional networks and following government guidelines, parents will be required to sign a declaration in order for their children to return to school. The declaration will include the following:

**1. You will not allow your child to come into school if:**

- a. They have been in quarantine or home isolation in the past 14 days
- b. They have knowingly been in contact with any people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- c. They are exhibiting any of the following symptoms (or if they have had these symptoms at any point in the previous three days):

- i. Body temperature above 37.5°C
- ii. Fever
- iii. Dry cough
- iv. Tiredness
- v. Aches and pains
- vi. Sore throat
- vii. Diarrhoea
- viii. Conjunctivitis
- ix. Headache
- x. Loss of taste or smell
- xi. A rash
- xii. Flu-like symptoms

**2. You will inform the school immediately if your child or a member of your household develops any of the above symptoms**

**3. You will inform the school immediately if your child or a member of your household is diagnosed with COVID-19**



# Parental Declaration



The declaration will also ask you to inform us whether your child or any of your child's household are classified as vulnerable to the symptoms of COVID-19. Individuals who are classified as 'high risk' include, but are not limited to those with the following conditions or who meet any of the following criteria:

1. *Asthma*
2. *Chronic kidney disease being treated with dialysis*
3. *Chronic lung disease*
4. *Diabetes*
5. *Hemoglobin Disorders*
6. *Immunocompromised*
7. *Liver disease*
8. *People aged 70 years and older*
9. *Serious heart conditions*
10. *Severe obesity*

# Contacts



Bus Service

[buses@ambrit-rome.com](mailto:buses@ambrit-rome.com)

Lunch Service

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General information

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COVID-19 Communication

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Middle School

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Counselling

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