

RETURN TO SCHOOL: Guidance for parents September 2021

As we prepare for the new academic year we have once again completed a detailed 'Risk Assessment' of procedures in light of current government guidance and more detailed information from the local authority. You can be assured that safety is at the forefront of our planning. A summary of the key elements of this risk assessment are provided below.

Ensuring good hygiene for everyone

How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">If you need to cough or sneeze</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Catch it with a tissue </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Bin it </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Kill it by washing your hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser </div> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">You should wash hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  After breaks & sport activities </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Before cooking & eating </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  SCHOOL ETC. On arrival at any childcare or educational setting </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  After using the toilet </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Before leaving home </div> </div>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;">  Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands </div> <div style="width: 30%;">  Do not share items that come into contact with your mouth such as cups & bottles </div> <div style="width: 30%;">  If unwell do not share items such as bedding, dishes, pencils & towels </div> </div>	

Regular hand-washing or sanitising will be required. All pupils/students will be expected to wash or sanitise hands on arrival at each classroom. Pupils/students should bring hand sanitiser with them to school, although some (alcohol based) sanitiser will be available if needed.

If they need to sneeze or cough, they should do so into a tissue where possible or, failing that, into their elbow. If they sneeze or cough into their hands, it's important that they wash or sanitise them straightaway to avoid spreading germs. Any used tissues must go straight into the bin.

Water fountains will be out of use but water bottles brought from home can be re-filled using any tap around school.

Staff will wear appropriate PPE when required, but these circumstances are very specific and very limited.

Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes

Thorough cleaning each day will protect surfaces during the following day.

Touch point cleaning will take place regularly during the day.

Additional cleaning materials will be available in all classrooms for use by staff and pupils, and pupils will assist in wiping down shared resources and contact points in lessons (e.g. computer keyboards and mice)

Pupils will be able to use any toilets. Touch points will be wiped down regularly during the day

Keep occupied spaces well ventilated

Doors and windows will be kept open to aid ventilation within the building.

Pupils/students should be aware that this may mean the building will be cooler as a result. Whilst KS3/4 pupils will have layers of school uniform students in KS5 should ensure they consider this in selecting appropriate clothing.

Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases

No-one (pupil, staff or visitor) should be on the school grounds if:

- they are displaying any symptoms of Coronavirus, or
- have tested positive on a lateral flow or PCR test, or
- have been instructed or are required to self-isolate

If a pupil/student develops symptoms whilst on site we will need to send them home to self-isolate. For KS3/4 pupils we will ask you to collect them and isolate them whilst they await collection. If, after demonstrating symptoms, they subsequently test negative then the pupil/student can return to school.

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. From 16 August individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. Pupils/students under 18 years 6 months who have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend school as normal.

Where a pupil/student is required to self-isolate then remote learning will be provided:

- For pupils in Years 7 to 11 the work will be provided via Microsoft Teams on a fortnightly basis, in a specific remote learning team for the relevant year group. The Team contains a channel for each subject and pupils should follow their regular timetable.
- For students in Years 12 and 13 work will be emailed directly, or work will be uploaded to the class Team on a weekly basis.

In line with government guidance pupils/students have been offered 2 on-site lateral flow device tests as part of the return to school, and should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed by the government.

Visiting school

Parents/carers should only come onto the school grounds by prior arrangement if possible, and report to the Main School reception. Visitors will be asked to wash or sanitise hands on entry where possible. Social distancing should be maintained and visitors may be asked to wear a face covering in enclosed/crowded spaces (in line with current government guidance).

Wherever possible please avoid the need to drop off items for your child. Please check each morning to ensure they have everything they need.

The curriculum

Lessons will take place as normal. Pupils will no longer be kept in separate year group bubbles, and will move around the site between lessons. To reduce the amount of movement each day we have retained adjustments to the timetable.

Some subject areas which involve practical elements will have additional control measures in place in line with local and national guidance. Where necessary schemes of work have been adjusted.

Extra curricular activities, events and educational visits

We will once again be offering a wide range of activities, events and visits. Where appropriate these will be risk assessed to identify whether any additional control measures are required.

Contingency planning

Schools are also required to have contingency plans (or outbreak management plans) in case we are advised to take extra measures to help break chains of transmission. The government's contingency framework outlines potential measures as:

- Increasing use of testing by staff and pupils/students including reintroducing on site testing
 - Reintroducing face coverings in communal areas and/or classrooms
 - Reintroducing shielding for shielded patient list
 - Limiting visits, open days, transition/taster days, parent events, live performances
 - Reintroduce "bubbles" to reduce mixing between groups
 - Restricting attendance of pupils/students in school and moving to remote education
- In the event further measures were required we will communicate further information to parents.

The content of the risk assessment, and this document, are based on the current guidance from local and national government. It will be reviewed and updated as and when this guidance changes.