

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

When my child returns to school, will they be taught by their usual teacher?

Some children may be with their teacher, but most will not. We will not have our full complement of staff in school as some will remain in self-shielding as per the government guidance. We will need to space children in smaller groups throughout the school and designate staff to lead and supervise in each room as appropriate. We will organise groupings, staffing and classrooms being as mindful as possible of individual children needs and friendships. However, we cannot guarantee your child will be with their best friend or neighbour and so on. Any activities will be planned by the teacher, and your child will have the same teacher for a week at a time.

Is it my choice if my child attends from June 1st onwards?

This is absolutely a matter of parental choice and a decision you can make based on the information available, knowledge of your own situation and circumstances. You will not be fined if you choose for your child to stay at home.

Can I change my mind closer to the time or as the situation changes?

In principle yes, therefore if you think you are likely to need a place, please indicate this on the survey. Once and *if* schools do reopen on or after June 1st then parents would need to contact school to arrange a date for their child to start back, so that we can try to not compromise any of the groupings and ensure we have adequate staffing available.

If parents initially say yes, but change their mind. Please contact school to inform us, so that we know who to expect and can plan accordingly. Thank you.

I am worried that my child is vulnerable or that a family member is, should I send them back to school?

Children and young people who are considered **extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding** should continue to shield and should not be expected to attend.

Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category.

Children and young people who live in a household with someone who is [extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding](#) should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child or young person is able to understand and follow those instructions.

Children and young people who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) as defined in the [social distancing guidance](#) and including those who are pregnant, can attend. DFE May 2020

How do staff feel about the situation?

Staff are naturally posing questions of school leaders as to how things will work safely for their pupils and for their own families. They want to continue to do their best to support all of our families in whatever guise that is (with home learning or at school). We hope you feel that we have tried to do this so far.

Since the outbreak, teachers and staff may not have needed to be present in school every day, but they have been present online, planning lessons for the future, supporting families in need, trying to keep positive spirit

going and offering to do a great deal that is outside of their job descriptions; delivering things to households, making phone calls, working school holidays etc as required without question. My reason for sharing this is to share that staff too will naturally be cautious about the return to school, not because they don't want to be back as normal, but because they want to get things right, keep plates spinning for those in school and those home learners, minimise distress for children and maximise safety at all costs. Our staff are committed, hardworking and care about the community we serve, but they have a right to be safe at work – I am sure we will all feel the same and respect that.

Can you guarantee that my child will be 2 metres away from others at all times and that social distancing will be enforced?

Honest answer, absolutely not. We will of course do our best to support distancing, but parents must understand that in returning to school there is a very real likelihood that children will touch adults and one another and come in to close contact. The nature of the school site and the age of our children is such that this is not completely unavoidable and we cannot be expected to respond to complaints around this when it inevitably happens. We cannot alleviate risk - we can minimise it, and parents must understand what we **are** able to do and use this to inform their decision making.

We will however:

- Confine children to designated rooms and groupings for play to minimise opportunity for mixing and movement
- Confine resources to rooms to minimise sharing and when sharing is essential, clean resources before transference
- Organise lunchtimes and playtimes differently
- Clear corridor spaces as far as is practical to allow maximum width space for walking
- Be vigilant in identifying children with symptoms, isolate them and ask parents to collect them

If parents imagine that our school if consolidated in to one building, is the size of a medium sized supermarket (albeit not in a large continual open plan space). Then consider the number of people allowed in that space and how difficult it is to maintain distancing even with adults. Then apply this to the number of children and adults who could be in school at one time at SS Peter and Paul.

What if I have a child in Reception, Year 1 or 6 but their sibling in one of the other year groups (2, 3, 4 or 5)?

In accordance with guidance, we will only be permitted to accept children in the year groups **Reception, Year 1 and Year 6** and those of **Key Workers**. If you have another child in school who attends in the years 2, 3, 4 or 5 they will have to stay at home and continue their home learning, which will continue to be set by class teachers, as it has been since March 20th.