

Wider opening of schools Information for parents (May 2020)

Background

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 11th May, we have developed plans to at least partially open our schools from 1st June. Each school's offer may vary and is dependent on the school site, the capacity of the rooms and the availability of teaching and support staff. **Central to our decision-making is the health, safety and well-being of our children, staff and other adults.** Scientific advice provided by the DfE will guide us at all times

We understand that parents and carers may be anxious and may have questions they need answering. We hope the following helps reassure you that the safety of your child will be at the forefront of our practice at all times

It is difficult for Early Years and Primary aged children to adhere to social distancing and the following hierarchy of controls is aimed at substantially reducing the risk of transmission of infection:

- Avoid contact with anyone with symptoms
- Frequent hand washing – on arrival, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing – for 20 seconds
- Children will be encouraged not to touch their eyes, mouth or nose
- Use tissue to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
- Regular cleaning of settings – in line with guidance
- Minimising contact and mixing by altering the classroom layout and time-tables

Detailed planning and robust risk assessments have been developed for each school and we have welcomed the engagement of our staff. A range of practices and protocols have been introduced, refined or adapted.

How will schools attempt to secure social distancing?

- Staff and children will be based in small consistent groups ('hubs') and will stay away from other 'hubs'
- Each hub will eat their lunch together and will take their breaks together
- Drop off and collection times may be staggered
- Drop off and collection protocols will be developed to minimise adult: adult contact
- Specific entrances may be identified for classes
- Guidance on the use of toilets will be explicitly explained to the children
- Schools may develop 'one-way' systems around the school
- Parents and carers cannot gather at the gates or classroom doors or visit the school site for any reason other than to drop off or collect their child (unless a pre-arranged appointment is made)

We have made changes to our existing behaviour policy

Through effective support, guidance and encouragement from staff and parents, and considering their age, our children will:

- Understand and follow any altered routines for arrival or departure.
- Understand and follow school instructions on hygiene, such as handwashing and sanitising.
- Understand and follow instructions on social distancing and with which pupils they can socialise with at school.
- Understand and be able to move around school safely, following specific instructions (for example, one-way systems, out of bounds areas, queuing)
- Understand and follow expectations about sneezing, coughing, tissues and disposal ('catch it, bin it, kill it') and avoiding touching your mouth, nose and eyes with hands.
- Know that they must tell an adult if they are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus.
- Understand and follow rules about sharing any equipment or other items including drinking bottles and specific learning resources.
- Understand and follow amended expectations about breaks or play times, including where they may or may not play.
- Understand which toilets they are able to use and what they should do to use them safely.
- Understand and follow clear rules about coughing or spitting at or towards any other person

- Understand how to access remote education safely whilst at home.
- Understand any amended rewards and sanction systems where appropriate.

Can my child be tested for COVID-19?

- Anyone over the age of 5 with symptoms can now request to be tested.

What happens if a child or a member of staff in school shows symptoms of COVID-19?

- If a child or a staff member develops symptoms of coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to undertake a test and must self-isolate for 7 days. Other members of their household must self-isolate for 14 days.
- Children or staff showing symptoms of coronavirus will be isolated from others until they are collected.
- If the test is **negative** then the child or member of staff can return to school and the family no longer need to self-isolate.

What happens if a child or a member of staff in school tests positive for COVID-19?

- If a child or member of staff tests **positive** they must self-isolate for 7 days
- The rest of their hub will also be sent home and must self-isolate for 14 days. Household members of the child or staff member must also self-isolate for 14 days.
- Household members of other children in the hub do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with from that group subsequently develops symptoms.

What if a member of a child's family tests positive for COVID-19?

- The child will need to self-isolate at home for 14 days along with other members of the household. Other children in the child's hub can continue to attend school and do not need to self-isolate unless they show signs of coronavirus.

Test and Trace

- If and when the national test and trace programme becomes available, if other cases are detected within the child's hub or in the wider school setting, Public Health England's local Health Protection Teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools on the most appropriate action to take.
- In some cases, a larger number of other children and young people **may** be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure - perhaps the whole class, site or year group.
- Where schools are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which reduces the risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

Is the wearing of PPE (personal, protective, equipment) recommended?

- The majority of staff in schools do not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain distance of 2 metres from others.
- If a child needs intimate care from a member of staff, PPE will be worn.
- PPE will be worn if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained from any child displaying coronavirus symptoms while they are waiting to be collected from school.
- Children should not wear PPE in school.

What cleaning procedures are in place?

- Thorough daily cleaning regimes are in place in all schools using products and protocols recommended in guidance.
- On-going cleaning of surfaces, door handles, handrails, toilets etc will take place throughout the day.
- Resources and furniture which are difficult to clean effectively have been removed from rooms.

We urge you to seek a COVID-19 test as soon as possible if your child or family member displays symptoms of coronavirus. Please do not leave your house if you have symptoms and please let us know the outcome of any tests undertaken.

I hope you find this guidance informative and reassuring. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school.