



Guidance for a return to school September 2020

Rationale

DFE: Returning to school or college is vital for children and young people's education and for their wellbeing. Time out of an education setting is detrimental to cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children and young people. This impact can affect both current levels of learning and children and young people's future ability to learn, and therefore we need to ensure all pupils/students can return to their setting sooner rather than later.

The risk to children and young people themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school or college. We know that education settings are a vital point of contact for public health and safeguarding services that are critical to the wellbeing of children, young people and families.

A child or young person's time spent in education is key to their preparation for adulthood. This affects the standard of living that today's pupils and students will have over the course of their entire life. For many households, the closure of education settings has also affected their ability to work. As the economy begins to recover, we need to remove this barrier so parents and carers can return to work.

In relation to working in education settings, whilst it is not possible to ensure a totally risk-free environment, the Office of National Statistics analysis on coronavirus (COVID-19) related deaths linked to occupations suggests that staff in educational settings tend not to be at any greater risk from the disease than many other occupations. There is no evidence that children transmit the disease any more than

Assessing Risks.

For both pupils and members of staff we will need to balance a number of risks which include:

1. Any potential health risks to the individual with underlying health conditions
2. Social distancing
3. Hygiene processes
4. Cleaning regimes

Each section within this document will outline the way in which we move forward in these still uncertain times.

Health Risks

The national shielding period has now ended and guidance dictates that any vulnerable or clinically vulnerable personnel should now return to work. School activities are judged as low risk as long as everyone is following the recommended advice. Risk assessments can be conducted with any staff who have concerns about their safety at work; they should speak to a member of SLT to access this.

Management of Covid is key to limiting its impact. Measures in place include:

- a requirement that people who are ill should stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school or college and wherever possible minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

Social Distancing

It is accepted that social distancing in schools like Broadmeadow is a challenge. Measures we are putting in place to maintain safety include:

- Creation of bubbles within which social distancing is not required. Classes are to join one other class to create bubble and the whole bubble will share spaces in school. Bubbles will be: Owls and Hedgehogs, Butterflies and Robins, Dragonflies and Ducklings.
- The school resource rota will reflect the bubbles, outdoor space is timetabled to bubbles.
- Unnecessary movement around school is kept at a minimum as far as is possible.
- Visits to classes will be minimised, however children will have access to the specialist services that they require, ie SALT and OT
- Whole school gatherings will not take place, good work assembly will be held virtually and mealtimes will take place in classrooms. Meetings will be reviewed and held virtually where possible.

Hygiene processes

Any individual entering the building should wash their hands (as per the guidance).

Any individual with symptoms must be isolated until they are able to depart.

Cleaning regimes

Cleaning and disinfecting any areas or surfaces will be undertaken by the cleaning team each day.

However, additional cleaning materials will be supplied to each room in use for disinfecting surfaces as they are used, within reason.

A dedicated member of staff will provide support to classes to enable touch disinfecting throughout the day.

What does this mean for our daily practises?

Pupils:

1. All pupils are expected to attend school, unless they are ill.
2. All pupils must wash their hands regularly throughout the day and this will be supported by staff.
3. All pupils will be temperature screened during registration sessions and at midday.
4. Any pupil displaying symptoms will be isolated in the allocated room until parents are able to collect them. A test for the virus can be arranged.
5. Any pupil who has displayed symptoms or tests positive will need to remain at home for a minimum of 10 days, should symptoms persist then parents will need to contact medical services for further advice. School nurse will advise on this matter and it will be reported to Public Health Wolverhampton.
6. Toilet cubicles should have one child in at a time and should be wiped over after use- staff from one bubble can take up to 3 children to the bathroom at any one time.
7. Areas like the gym, hall and multisensory room will be used by one bubble per day as displayed on the rota. Balls will be removed from the ball pit and soft swings should be avoided where possible.
8. Play and lunch times will be planned to enable bubbles to remain together, times and areas will be on a rota.
9. NO off -site visits will take place, this will be reviewed regularly. Swimming will not take place.
10. Families can send in packed lunches and hot meals will be delivered in boxes and eaten in classes. There is to be no congregating around the hatch to collect meals.
11. School buses will be unloaded one at a time to allow for social distancing. Bus organisation will be managed by Boulton travel and children will travel in their bubbles.
12. Families dropping off and picking up will be limited to 2 at one time and should remember hand gel and social distancing rules. Some children will have staggered entry and exit times- these will be communicated individually.

Finally, in light of all of the advice and guidance above and in various documents produced by the Government, I would like to assure all parents that we are adhering to these guidelines as closely as possible.