



Guidance for a return to school

Updated March 2021

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.

Whilst it is not possible to ensure a totally risk-free environment for people working in schools, there is no evidence that children transmit the disease any more than adults, and no evidence that staff in education settings are at any greater risk than many occupations. At this time, March 2021 the country is in a lockdown situation with a clear road map planned out to introduce a gradual lifting of restrictions as Covid cases decline.

This guidance clearly states the day to day practice which has been nationally recognised as best practice in terms of keeping our school as safe as it can be

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
5. Maintaining staff ratios for safety

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

Health Risks

People considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable have been advised to stay at home. Anyone living with someone carrying this status is expected to come in to school. School activities are judged as low risk as long as everyone is following the recommended advice.

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
- access to the Covid vaccine for all staff members
- active attention to social distancing
- regular lateral flow testing for all adults; staff and families

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 a 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).

All visitors to school will be asked to wear face coverings whilst in the foyer area.

Any individual with symptoms must be isolated until they are able to depart and then get a Covid test, if positive they have to isolate for 10 days or until they feel well if this is longer.

Visitors will not be permitted past the school foyer unless agreed by SLT.

Adults moving through school will wear face coverings.

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.

Class staff need to ensure that toys and chairs that have been used are wiped over with Milton at the end of each school day.

Office staff should be mindful of cross infection when answering telephones and greeting visitors.
Regular touchpoints around school will be disinfected frequently by a dedicated member of staff.

What does this mean for our daily practises?

Pupils:

1. All pupils are expected to attend school, unless they are ill or having to self-isolate.
2. All pupils must wash their hands regularly throughout the day.
3. All pupils will be temperature screened during registration sessions and at midday- this will be recorded.
4. Any pupil displaying symptoms will be isolated in the medical room until parents are able to collect them. A test for the virus can then be arranged. Staff supporting any child in this situation must wear full PPE- mask, gloves, apron, visor.
5. Any pupil who has displayed symptoms will need to remain at home for a minimum of 10 days, and will be asked to take a test. School nurse will provide advice if needed and the case reported to Public Health Wolverhampton if a positive test result is received, this could result in temporary self- isolation for the child's close contacts.
6. Toilet cubicles should have one child in at a time and should be wiped over after use- staff from one class can take up to 3 children to the bathroom at any one time. A vacant/ engaged sign system remains in use.
7. Areas like the gym, hall and multisensory room will be used by one bubble per day where possible as displayed on the rota. Balls will be removed from the ball pit and soft swings should be avoided where possible.
8. Rebound therapy will be limited to one bubble per week to give the trampoline time to decontaminate (72 hours), this will be on a rota basis for one day. Additional PE slots will be made available for classes who miss Rebound each week.
9. Classrooms will be ventilated by having at least one window open throughout the day.
10. Play and lunch times will be staggered to reduce the number of children and staff mixing, all areas of outdoors can be used to keep groups split. The hall will be allocated to one bubble each day. This area will be thoroughly wiped over by cleaning staff at the end of each day.
11. Off- visits will not take place during National lockdown. Swimming will not take place.
12. Families can send in packed lunches and hot meals will be delivered and eaten in classes. There is to be no congregating around the hatch to collect meals.
13. School buses will be unloaded and loaded one bubble at a time to allow for social distancing, Bus organisation will be managed by Boulton travel and children will travel in their bubbles.
14. Families who bring their children to school will be given staggered start and end times to reduce overcrowding of the foyer area, no more than 2 families should be in the foyer at one time.
15. Staff will wear PPE provided for dealing with saliva or any other bodily fluids, toothbrushing should be carried out with caution.
16. PPE is available for staff to use at any time should they require it. PPE is not necessary when working within a class bubble for most duties. Face coverings MUST be worn by staff entering a different bubble or in situations where a 2m distance in a well- ventilated area for a period of more than 10 minutes cannot be achieved.

17. Part time rotas will be activated for pupils in the event of being unable to provide a safe staffing ratio due to illness/ absence from school due to self-isolation requirements
18. Families will be encouraged to engage in lateral flow testing twice weekly in line with school staff. This can be administered in one of Wolverhampton's lateral flow testing community sites or in their home with testing kits which can be ordered for free from the NHS. School communications have been sent out to explain this.

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.

If the guidelines change then we will adapt our working practises accordingly.

Our priority is the safety and well-being of staff and pupils.