

FAQ for parents and carers

What will the school look like for my child?

- School will look very different for our pupils.
- Pupils will not necessarily be with their usual class teachers but will have key adults in their room that do not change.
- They will be taught in small groups of between 3-4 pupils and will be treated as 'bubble' classes which we are calling a POD. The intention being that pupils will only meet and communicate directly with children and adults in their POD.
- Pupils will not use corridors unless they need to use the toilet in their break time.
- Pupils will stay in their classroom all day unless they leave their classroom for a scheduled break.
- A packed lunch meal will be given to the pupils to take home. Working in this way contains the spread of infection.

How will the classroom be organised?

- All classrooms have been separately risk assessed to determine how many people we can accommodate in each classroom.
- Pupils will be assigned a table to work from. The tables will be at least 2 metres apart and will allow for a circulation area.
- Pupils will use their personal trays to hold their belongings. Pupils will be allocated personal equipment that will stay in school for them to use in their own personal tray.
- Pupils will not be able to bring bags or personal belongings into their classroom; these will remain in their own tray kept in the entrance room.
- We have stripped out non-essential furniture, so there is more room in each classroom. Equipment is limited for pupils to use in order to maintain hygiene standards.
- Pupils will be moving in small areas throughout the day. Equipment and surfaces are cleaned regularly.

How often will my child be in school?

- We are currently considering what we are able to offer each child and this will be dependent on the number of pupils who will be attending. Pupils may be in on a schedule basis e.g. Monday and Tuesday / Thursday and Friday or may be in every day. However, we will be staggering the times at the beginning and end of the learning day, so that it reduces the number of people arriving and leaving the site at any one time. More information will follow once clarification has been received and numbers of children established.
- Our school is based on a small site, so naturally the numbers of people we can have on site will be significantly reduced.

What am I required to provide or do as a parent?

- Read the Expectation and Guidance document with your child.
- We will supply a tray of stationery to pupils. This is important so that pupils are not sharing resources and these will stay in school at all times.
- We will be checking pupils' temperatures daily on entrance to school. We do expect parents to be vigilant about their children's health and take steps to ensure that children are healthy to come into school.

How will you ensure social distancing in school?

- We will be staggering break times, so that groups of pupils do not mix, keeping the PODs separate throughout the day.
- Each classroom has been risk assessed and each table is 2m apart.

How will children and adults move around the school and grounds?

- We are aware that this needs to be carefully managed. Through implementing different start and finish times we will be restricting the number of people on the school site.
- Access into the school building will be restricted to school staff and pupils.
- Visitors to the site will be restricted, parents wishing to talk to a member of staff will be asked to make an appointment.

Will staff and children wear PPE?

- Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended by the government. It is also not recommended for pupils to use masks as they will have difficulty not touching the mask and therefore potentially spread the infection.
- In certain instances a mask and protective equipment may be used by staff to undertake first aid or close care.
- Government advice to schools dictates that any homemade non-disposable face coverings that staff or pupils, young people or other learners are wearing when they arrive at their setting must be removed by the wearer and placed into a plastic bag that the wearer has brought with them in order to take it home. The wearer must then clean their hands.

Will my child receive a free school meal?

- Pupils attending onsite will be offered a prepared packed lunch meal provided by NEECA to take home.

What happens if my child or another member of the 'POD' becomes ill?

- When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. The POD may be asked to self isolate on a 'case by case' basis.
- There is a dedicated medical room and toilet for any pupil who feels ill.
- Parents will be expected to collect their child straight away. Public transport and taxis will not accept those demonstrating symptoms of coronavirus.
- All staff and pupils who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.
- Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.
- **Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class 'POD' will be advised to self-isolate for 14 days and get tested.**

What will the online learning offer be?

- Over the period of school closure our school has worked hard to provide an interactive online learning offer.
- We have also provided paper based work for pupils who have limited or no internet access.
- Home learning will still be offered and we are looking to enhance this further still.

What will be available for children critical workers?

- The school will continue to offer places for our key workers regardless of the year group your child attends. We are exploring how we can do this, within the constraints of keeping PODs separate.

What will cleaning look like in school?

- We have fantastic cleaners and site team at our school who have ensured our school is as clean as possible.
- Site staff and cleaners will be working across the day to ensure that communal surfaces, toilets and doors are cleaned regularly. Classrooms will also be cleaned at the end of the day.
- Staff will be equipped to clean surfaces used at intervals and equipment will be wiped down and exchanged daily so that they can be cleaned between uses.

I have received a letter from the NHS that my child or a member of the household is required to shield or my child needs to undertake strict social distancing and will not be able to return to school? What arrangements will be in place for my child?

- We are aware that this situation is creating anxiety for parents. The guidance is clear that these pupils do not need to attend school. Learning will continue to be available online.

Attendance

- Any parent choosing not to send their child to school will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.