

COVID-19 School Reopening FAQs

Please see below some of the questions that we have anticipated you may have about our reopening. We have already had one or two questions from parents which we have endeavoured to answer. We thought it would be useful to share these with you.

PLEASE ENSURE THE OFFICE HAS YOUR UP TO DATE CONTACT DETAILS INCLUDING MOBILE, LANDLINE AND EMAIL IN ORDER TO RECEIVE ALL THE LATEST INFORMATION FROM US.

1. Which year groups are returning to school?

The Government has asked primary schools to welcome back children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 alongside priority groups. However we are prioritising keyworker children and those identified as vulnerable. At the present time we will not be opening to further year groups as we have no capacity to do so. We will review this regularly and will let you know.

2. Why aren't all the children coming back?

The DfE have based this on the need to reduce the rate of transmission of the virus. So have taken account of the need to reduce numbers returning as a gradual process and smaller groupings in classes can be maintained.

3. If one of my children is eligible to return can't their sibling come back too?

Yes if you are a key worker or your children are considered vulnerable. It will depend on your individual situation and we will risk assess each family who attends. We will not be opening to other year groups at the moment as this would increase the school capacity too quickly.

4. Does my child have to attend?

No one with symptoms should attend for any reason. All children in the selected groups are encouraged to attend unless self-isolating or shielding. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time and schools will not be held to account for attendance levels.

5. 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. This is possible for a Year 6 child but highly unlikely for a younger child i.e. in Reception. It would be advisable for these children to remain at home.

6. How big will the classes be?

The DfE is recommending class group size should not exceed 15 pupils per small group. We will have two staff members for each group. Tables will be separated and labelled for each child and should be as far apart as the room allows.

Having completed risk assessments and a parent survey, classes will have fewer than 15 children when we return.

7. Will you guarantee that social distancing takes place e.g. keeping children 2m apart?

We will of course do our best to support distancing, especially with any adults in the school. DfE guidance states '*We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account.*' Therefore, we will do our best to enforce this guidance. We will be ensuring that each group does not come into contact with other class groups. Children will only be able to socialise with children in their class, even at playtime. The nature of the school site and the age of our children is such that this is that some contact may be unavoidable and we cannot be expected to respond to complaints around this when it inevitably happens. We cannot alleviate every risk and parents must understand what we are able to do and use this to inform their decision making.

8. Why can't my children (siblings) play with each other at break time?

To enable us to maintain distance from others for each class group, it is important that children only play with children in their own group. This helps us to limit the number of people each group comes into contact with, which will aid in preventing transmission.

9. What hygiene measures will be in place to prevent transmission?

We will use the COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance to inform our school specific risk assessments. Please access here <https://bit.ly/2Bwb6cr>

- ensure that sufficient handwashing facilities are available. All staff and children will have access to sinks. Hand sanitiser will also be available.
- clean surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, more regularly than normal
- ensure that bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day
- where possible, ensure spaces are well ventilated.
- prop doors open, where safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding), to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation

We will ensure that all adults and children:

- frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly.
 - clean their hands on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing
 - are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose
 - use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
- We will consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition.

10. Will children be confined to the same classroom environment most of the day?

Government advice on the Scientific evidence shows that the outdoor environment is much more manageable in terms of virus transmission. With the Summer weather coming we will be moving towards more of an outdoor learning approach, where possible. However, outside of this, we will keep children within their own classroom during the day.

11. How will lunch time work?

Children will eat in their classes. Meals will be provided in the form of a packed lunch for everyone. No hot meals will be served. Tables (and chairs) will be cleaned between sittings after eating. Free School Meal children will continue to receive vouchers if they are not attending school.

12. What measures will school be employing to help prevent transmission?

In addition to what has already been mentioned

We will:

- give children a designated classroom and group for lessons and play, to minimise the opportunity for mixing.
- regularly clean the setting.
- not allow children to bring in their own resources such as pencil cases.
- use PPE such as gloves, aprons, masks, hand sanitiser and anti-bac wipes as identified in our Risk assessments, when it is necessary to do so.
- confine resources to rooms to minimise sharing and when sharing is essential (eg laptops and ipads), clean resources before transference.
- organise lunchtimes and playtimes differently, keeping children in their groups.
- be vigilant in identifying children with symptoms, isolate them and ask parents to collect them.
- removal and/or restricting access to unnecessary items in classrooms.
- removal and/or restricting access to soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean.
- not share PE equipment. All groups will have their own equipment in a box. Where it is not possible to have class resources, equipment will be cleaned between each class use.

13. Will my child be expected to share resources, such as pens and pencils?

Where possible, children will be given their own equipment, which they must not share with anyone else. They must not bring any equipment in from home. Laptops and Ipads will be cleaned with an anti-bacterial wipe after use. We cannot say that some resources will not be handled by more than one child, especially at Skegness Infant Academy. We have spent nearly half a year teaching our youngest children that sharing is good! Children will be encouraged to maintain good hand hygiene.

14. I'm a key worker and I have only needed my Y1 child to access school childcare for 2 days a week up to now. Do they have to attend every day from 1st June?

The Government advice is that they strongly encourage eligible children to attend including priority groups. Ultimately it is the parents decision. A full weekly attendance is easier for schools to plan for and helps children with their routine.

15. My child is in the childcare provision currently but isn't in the year groups above?

Priority group children will continue to come to school. As we review our provision and numbers increase beyond, then we will create more groups. This will only be a time when we can continue to function as safely as possible. For now we will not be opening to other groups of children other than key worker and vulnerable children.

16. Will everyone arrive at school at the same time causing an increase in risk?

We have organised a longer drop off window for children to be brought into school. This is from 8.45-9.15. At the Infant Academy, parents and carers will access the site and follow the clearly marked one way system. At the Juniors access is through the rear gates on Burgh Road.

Only one parent or carer should accompany the child to school to minimise risk. Although we would prefer all children to be collected, Y6 pupils may still come to school unattended as long as they can adhere to any rules regarding distancing. This will depend on your individual family situation as children in vulnerable groups may not be able to do this. Parents will not be invited to enter the building.

If your child arrives late, the office will need to be notified as the gates will be locked shortly after the drop off window closes. It may not always be possible to let them in due to staff availability.

17. My child is feeling anxious about coming back to school, how can I prepare him/her?

You will need to prepare your child by talking about what school was like and what it will be like now. It will be different. It will be important to encourage your child to talk about their experiences in 'lockdown' and that this period is now ending for some groups of children.

18. Will children go straight back into normal lessons following the National Curriculum?

Whether your child is in school or at home, learning will continue to be overseen by teachers. This will be accessible on devices in the same way. Children will access their learning in school and once they have completed the set activities, there will be other topic related options or PSHE, outdoor activities for example for children to take part in.

We know children like routine; therefore, new routines will quickly be established and when children are ready, and when we can open more fully we will continue teaching lessons as normal.

We plan to make use of our outdoor learning environment as much as possible.

We are currently working hard to ensure that children, who are remaining at home, get access to learning as they have before.

19. How will you support my child's emotional well-being?

In addition to that mentioned above, pastoral staff will be available to provide support. Our SENCO and PSHE leads will work to ensure that children's needs are met.

There will be plenty of opportunities for children to discuss their feelings, play, rebuild friendships and have 'break out' or 'chill out' spaces for times when they may feel overwhelmed.

20. Will staff and children wear masks or PPE?

The Government guidelines state, 'The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.'

21. Will my child need to wear a school uniform?

No, we do not need you to send your child back in uniform as we do not think it is necessary for the time being. Please send your child into school in sportswear: joggers, t-shirt and trainers if you can. This means that they will not need to bring in a PE kit and can carry out all activities without having to change.

We advise that children come to school in fresh clothing every day.

Hats may be needed for sun protection. We advise applying long lasting sun-cream before coming to school rather than bringing cream in. We will not be able to apply sun cream to children.

22. What should my child bring to school each day?

We only want your child in school. If a coat is needed, this will be hung on the back of the child's chair to minimise contact.

We would advise that you apply long lasting sun-cream if possible before coming to school rather than having to bring sun-cream in. We will not be able to apply sun-cream to any children. P.E. kits, book bags, ruck sacks, etc will not be required and will help to ensure that classrooms and cloakrooms are as clutter-free as possible.

23. Will the breakfast club and after school club be open?

We will not be running any before or after school clubs. We will let you know when we can resume these.

24. Will we allow visitors and volunteers into school?

No until the situation improves, we will only have school staff in the building and only those we need for the day.

25. Will extra-curricular clubs run (football club, dance club etc)?

No. These bring too many children into contact and mix the school groupings.

26. Will the school office be open?

Yes, but parents and children will not be allowed into the office and access will be via phone. We will not be accepting late arrivals to school via the office, you will need to ring the office for access. However due to limited staff you may have to wait. If your child arrives after 9.45 we will not be letting them in and they will need to return to your supervision. If you need to contact staff you will need to ring and request a call back. We will not be holding any face to face meetings at this present time.

27. Will you continue to provide online home learning activities for children who do not return to school?

We will continue to set home learning activities during term-time, so that all children have access to provision to support their learning. These activities will continue as they have previously. With school reopening to a greater number, parents will need to be mindful that teaching staff will not be as responsive to parent messages.

28. Will children and young people be eligible for testing for the virus?

The government advice is:

When settings open to the wider cohort of children and young people, all those children and young people eligible to attend, and members of their households, will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus. This will enable them to get back into childcare or education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative. To access testing parents will be able to use the 111 online coronavirus service if their child is 5 or over. Parents will be able to call 111 if their child is aged under 5.

29. Will teachers and other staff be able to get tested if they have symptoms?

Access to testing is available to all essential workers. This includes anyone involved in education, childcare or social work – including both public and voluntary sector workers, as well as foster carers.

30. What will happen if a child in the class shows symptoms?

We will follow the Government guidelines set out below-

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in an education or childcare setting, they must be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance. Please access here <https://bit.ly/3cAswSh>

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else. PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs). In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home (although this will be offered to any member of staff if the case arises) unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive (see ‘What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?’ below). They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance. Please access here <https://bit.ly/2Bwb6cr>

31. What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school?

We will follow the Government guidance set out below.

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students 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 or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England’s local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

Please access here <https://bit.ly/376Jbvk>

32. Will the school take my child’s temperature every day?

No.

33. Will there be any trips once school opens on June 1st?

No. There are no plans to take the children out of the school grounds until further notice. This follows advice from the DFE.

34. How can I speak to the class teacher if we are not allowed into school?

You can contact your child’s class teacher by using messages on class dojo, Tapestry, or Teams via your child’s account. If you are unable to do this, you can phone or email the office who will then pass the message on.

35. Why are different schools doing different things to reopen?

Individual school circumstances are different - numbers in year groups, staff available to work, etc. We are working with the Trust to ensure that we are following all the government guidance on reopening school.

36. Can I bring in a change of clothes for my child?

Some children may need a change of clothes in school. We would ask that you send these in a plastic bag and that we can keep them in school until required. This is to keep the need for items that come in from home to a minimum. Your child will be encouraged to change themselves.

37. Where can I find more information about returning to school?

The Government information is provided here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>. Please access here <https://bit.ly/376Jbvk>