



**A framework for 8<sup>th</sup> March Re-opening**

**Information for Parents**

**March 2021**

## Key Points from the government guidance

- The government has set out its intent and plan for all children to return to school full time from the 8<sup>th</sup> March. It is based on a twin strategy of limiting contact between pupils and implementing hygiene measures (these are described in more detail within 'system of controls' in the published guidance - see section one)
- Schools are told that "all elements of the system of controls are essential", but "the way different schools implement some of the requirements will differ based on their individual circumstances."
- Schools will be familiar with many aspects of the system of controls already, eg thorough and regular handwashing and promoting good respiratory hygiene (the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach)
- The main changes relate to how contact between individuals is to be limited in schools. Contact is to be limited in two main ways:
  1. By ensuring pupils remain in consistent groups ('bubbles') wherever possible, thereby minimising the number of contacts between different people across the school
  2. By maintaining distance between individuals wherever possible ('social distancing').
- The DfE states "if schools follow the guidance set out, they can be confident they are managing risk effectively."
- Schools are also being asked to prepare a 'plan b', ie arrangements to allow remote learning to take place should a partial or full closure of the school be required, at any point in the next academic year.

## School Organisation

The 'bubble' model adopted in September will continue. Due to the size of our school and limitations around both human and physical capacity, these bubbles will be extended to four broader groupings:

- Early Years
- Key Stage 1
- Lower Key Stage 2
- Upper Key Stage 2

The purpose of extending these bubbles into a larger group will be to make it logistically possible to operate a lunchtime service, playtimes and curriculum interventions such as Read, Write, Inc.

As much as possible we will endeavour to limit the contact each class interacts with other years' groups, but especially the larger Key Stage bubbles.

Within the classroom, each pupil will have their own set of resources in an individual tray on their desk space, to limit movement around the class. Children will not need to bring any resources into school except their reading folder, water bottle and PE kit. Reading books will be changed on Fridays and homework will be set on our dB learning online platform.

## What will my child's classroom look like?

- Movement around the classroom will be limited as much as possible.
- Classrooms will be well ventilated and internal doors open.
- Each child will have their own pen/pencil but resources can be used and shared within the individual Bubbles. Any shared resources across the school will be thoroughly cleaned between uses.

## What time will the children start and finish their school day?

- We have staggered the drop off and pick up times to ensure everyone can enter and leave the site safely, with appropriate social distancing. Please leave 2 metres between each other and ensure you follow social distancing guidelines at all times.
- We will be operating a **one way** system on the school site. The **only entry point will be the main entrance at the front of the school**. Parents will therefore walk in a clockwise direction around the school building. The exit points from the playground will be **the rear gate (on Douglas Street)** and the **gate on Moorby Street** next to the Children's Centre. At the end of the school day, we will also be opening the **gate to access Thames street**. Please use this if you don't have to collect children from the Early Years and would be walking up the estate in that direction anyway.

School day timings for each year group:	<b>Year 6</b>	Start at 8.50am, finish at 3.05pm.	entry & exit through the Year 6 door
	<b>Year 5</b>	Start at 8.50am, finish at 3.05pm.	entry & exit through the Key stage 2 site entrance
	<b>Year 4</b>	Start at 8.55am, finish at 3.10pm.	entry & exit through the Year 4 door
	<b>Year 3</b>	Start at 8.55am, finish at 3.10pm.	entry & exit through the Year 3 door
	<b>Year 2</b>	Start at 9.05am, finish at 3.15pm.	entry & exit through the Key Stage 1 door
	<b>Year 1</b>	Start at 9.05am, finish at 3.15pm.	entry & exit through the Year 1 door
	<b>Reception</b>	Start at 9.00am, finish at 3.15pm.	entry & exit through the reception door
	<b>Nursery</b>	Start at 9.00am, finish at 12.00pm.	entry & exit through the nursery door

***Please can parents try to avoid arriving on the school site too early. This creates congestion and reduces the effectiveness of the staggered start and finish times. Your help in this will be greatly appreciated.***

## What do we ask of parents bringing pupils to school?

- Only one parent to bring pupils to school. Teachers and teaching assistants will meet the pupils at the gate or door in order to hand sanitise them.
- Please arrive promptly at the allocated time. Please keep your own social distancing and avoid gathering.
- There are yellow line markings on the playground. Please do not encroach on these and please do not loiter talking to other parents in the school playground after dropping off your child.
- Only urgent messages should be passed onto staff at drop off. Please ring or e-mail us at [info@beever.oldham.sch.uk](mailto:info@beever.oldham.sch.uk) with anything non-urgent.

## What should my child wear?

- The children will need to come in their full school uniform, including school shoes. Uniform should be clean each day.
- P.E. kit should be brought into school and taken home after each use. P.E. lessons will usually take place outside so if the weather is cold, the children will need tracksuits and trainers.

## Will my child need PPE?

- No children of Primary School age need to wear a face mask, as advised by the Government.
- Most staff will not be wearing PPE equipment unless completing first aid or advised differently by their own health professional, as per Government guidelines.

## Hygiene and cleanliness

- The children will be given regular reminders throughout the day on handwashing and the use of hand sanitisers. Hand sanitiser dispensers have been placed around the school, making it easy for children and adults to sanitise regularly. We will expect children to use the sanitisers as soon as they enter school in the morning.

## Will there be a Breakfast club and Extra Curricular Activities?

- Breakfast club will resume on Monday 8th March.
- As from September, the breakfast club will no longer be one in which children can turn up to on spec. We will therefore be asking parents to contact the school the day before if they will be requiring breakfast club provision for their child. If a week's provision is required, this can be arranged when contact is made. We need to do this in order to manage the pupil numbers and ensure that children accessing the provision can remain within their school bubble.
- There will be no after school club provision planned for the Spring term. This decision will be kept under review and may change depending on the circumstances nationally.

## Does my child have to attend school and will I be penalised if I choose not to send them?

- School attendance is once again mandatory. (Exceptions are those children who have a shielding letter from their GP)
- Fixed penalty fines may be issued if children do not attend.

## Are there any groups of pupils who should not be attending school at this time?

The majority of pupils will be able to return to school. However, if you fall into any of the categories below please contact school:

- a small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>
- some pupils no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school (usually at their next planned clinical appointment).

Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, we will continue to provide home learning opportunities.

Where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.

## My child sometimes has accidents and needs changing; can I bring a bag of spare clothes for them? Personal Care

- Staff are encouraged to wear PPE when undertaking personal care. This will include any First Aid or toileting needs. Seeing staff in PPE when helping a child may be distressing, particularly for younger children. If a child falls over, staff will have the option to don available PPE before attending to a child. We will try to minimize any distress, whilst adhering to government guidance and ensuring the safety of ALL of our community remains our top priority.

Children can bring a bag with spare clothes etc. into school. Staff are required to wear gloves to change a child who is wet. If a child is soiled we will contact you to pick them up and change them. If you are unable pick your child up to change them, a face mask and gloves will be worn by staff to change them.

## What are the symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

The main symptom of COVID-19 are:

- a new continuous cough and/or
- fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Children may also display gastrointestinal symptoms.

If children display any of these symptoms during a school day we will ring for you to collect them immediately and they will be kept in isolation from other children. Please ensure we have your up to date contact details.

## What to do if my child is unable to attend school because they have COVID-19 symptoms

**Anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19, or whose household member develops symptoms, should immediately self-isolate. They should not attend school or childcare setting and should follow the steps below.**

- Child shouldn't attend school
- Child should get a test
- Whole household self-isolates while waiting for the test result
- Inform school immediately about test results

## What to do if my child is unable to attend school because they have COVID-19 symptoms

**Anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19, or whose household member develops symptoms, should immediately self-isolate. They should not attend school or childcare setting and should follow the steps below.**

- Parent/Carer should notify school of their absence by phone as soon as possible
- The person with symptoms should isolate for 10 days starting from the first day of their symptoms and the rest of their household for 10 days.
- The child should get tested via **NHS UK (online)** or by contacting **NHS 119** via telephone if you do not have internet access. This would also apply to any parent or household member who develops symptoms.

In calculating the self-isolation end date, we have used the official national test and trace guidance under which the date of last contact with the positive case is considered to be day 0 of a 10 day self-isolation period and where day 11 is the day when self-isolation is lifted and your child can return to school, as set out below:



## Frequently Asked Questions:

### **Who is considered a contact in a school or childcare setting?**

A contact is defined as a person who has had contact (see below) at any time from 48 hours before onset of symptoms (or test if asymptomatic) to 10 days after onset of symptoms (or test):

- a person who has had face-to-face contact (within one metre) with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), including:
  - being coughed on, or
  - having a face-to-face conversation, or
  - having skin-to-skin physical contact, or
  - any contact within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- a person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) for more than 15 minutes
- a person who has travelled in a small vehicle with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or in a large vehicle near someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)
- people who spend significant time in the same household as a person who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

### **Which contacts need to self-isolate?**

Where the child or staff member tests positive and they had attended the school/setting in the 48 hours prior to developing symptoms, direct and close contacts will be identified and advised regarding self-isolation by a contact tracer.

Please note: The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

### **Can the siblings of a child who is isolated because they are a contact of a case attend school setting?**

Yes, other household members of the contact do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

### **A child/parent reports to us that they have had contact with someone with symptoms – what should we do?**

There is no action required of the school. No-one with symptoms should be attending school or childcare setting and anyone who develops symptoms while at school or setting should be isolated and sent home as soon as possible. Schools should regularly remind parents of the government guidance on staying at home and the importance of a household self-isolating if anyone in the household develops symptoms.



**If a child has COVID-19 symptoms, gets tested and tests negative, can they return to school even if they still have symptoms?**

If the child is NOT a known contact of a confirmed case the child can return to school or setting if the result is negative, provided they feel well and they have not had a fever for 48 hours.

If the child is a contact of a confirmed case they must stay off school/setting for the 10 day isolation period, even if they test negative. This is because they can develop the infection at any point up to day 10 (the incubation period for COVID-19), so if a child tests negative on day 3 they may still go on to develop the infection.

**If a child who was a contact of a confirmed case tests negative, can they return to school or childcare setting?**

No, the child should complete 10 days of isolation.

**If I get confirmed cases does the school need to close?**

The school setting does not need to close on public health grounds. Schools will generally only need to close if they have staff shortages due to illness or being identified as contacts. It is expected that only the bubble of a confirmed case will need to isolate. If there are a number of confirmed cases across different bubbles at the same time then the school setting may be advised to close by the Health Protection Team in consultation with other partners.

***Please note:***

*All of the plans we have informed you of in this document remain subject to change if the Government or Local Authority recommend a course of action, at which point we will change our plans accordingly and communicate with you all once we have considered the recommendation fully.*