

Government guidance and frequently asked questions

You may have many questions about the Government's approach to reopening schools for everyone. I have copied and summarised some of the [Government's latest advice](#) for parents which I hope will address some of your questions. You can read the Government's full advice by searching '*DfE parents guidance.*'

Is it safe to return? The prevalence of coronavirus has decreased since schools restricted their opening to most pupils, the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running and we understand more about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments in schools.

The scientific evidence shows that coronavirus (COVID-19) presents a much lower risk to children than adults of becoming severely ill, and there is no evidence that children transmit the disease any more than adults. There will still be risks while coronavirus (COVID-19) remains in the community, and that is why schools will be asked to put in place a range of protective measures.

More on Public Transport

As I explained overleaf, where possible, children and young people are encouraged to avoid public transport, particularly at peak times, and to walk to school. Where your child relies on public transport to get to school or college, and cannot walk, the [safer travel guidance for passengers](#) will apply.

Curriculum

The Government has set out expectations on what schools are expected to teach when pupils return in September. Schools will continue to provide an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects. There may need to be changes to some subjects - such as PE and other practical subjects- to ensure they can be delivered safely.

Assessment and exams

The Government recognises that young people will have missed a critical period of their learning due to lockdown in the 2019 to 2020 academic year. The government is planning on the basis that statutory primary assessments (for those going into year 6 in September) will take place in summer 2021.

Extra-curricular activities

The Government advises that

- schools will be permitted to run breakfast and after-school activities. They must be delivered in line with the guidance on protective measures, so things may need to run differently.
- schools can resume educational day trips, in line with the latest public health guidance and wider guidance for schools on the actions they can take to reduce risks. **Please note there will be no residential camps for the time being.**

Suspected symptoms of coronavirus amongst the school community

The Academy will fully engage with the NHS Test and Trace process and contact our local Public Health England health protection team. Parents/carers need to be ready to:

- book a test if you or your child are displaying symptoms. Pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5
- provide details of anyone you have been in close contact with if you or your child test positive for coronavirus or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- self-isolate if you have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing website. Parents must inform us immediately of the results:

- if you or your child tests negative, and if you or your child feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), you can stop self-isolating.
- if you or your child tests positive, you should follow the 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and your child may only return to school if they do not have symptoms other than a cough.

Confirmed case of coronavirus amongst the school community

The Academy will take swift action if we become aware that someone who has attended has tested positive for coronavirus. We will contact the local health protection team that will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate. Based on the advice from the health protection team, we would then send home those pupils who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious. Close contact means:

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual

The health protection team will provide definitive advice on who must be sent home, and we will keep a record of pupils and staff in each bubble to help in this instance.

Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless your child who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. If someone in a bubble that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection'. They should get a test, and:

- if the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period.
- if the test result is positive, they should inform us immediately, and must isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms. Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first symptoms had, following 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection'

If we have more than one confirmed case

If the Academy was to experience an outbreak (2 or more confirmed cases of coronavirus among pupils or staff within 14 days, or if there is an increase in pupil or staff absence rates due to suspected cases of coronavirus), we will contact our local health protection team. This team will advise any additional action, though the closure of the whole school will generally not be necessary.

Where an outbreak in a school is confirmed, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched to test others who may have been in contact with the person who has tested positive. Testing will focus on the person's class, then their year group, then the whole school, if necessary. If our local area sees a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, we may be advised to implement further measures.