



ST JAMES'
Church of England
Primary School



Opening schools more widely: information for parents and carers

Date: Summer 2

The following information is some key points to help you to prepare for some pupils to return to school.

The government has asked schools to prepare to open more widely to pupils.

We're sending this to all of you, even though only some of you will have children coming back to school in the next few weeks. This is so that you're prepared for when we can welcome more and more children.

Planning for a safe process to open our school more widely has been challenging and some of the changes will not suit everyone. However, we're following government guidelines and tried to make the plan as safe as possible.

'As a result of the huge efforts everyone has made to adhere to strict social distancing measures, the transmission rate of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased. We therefore anticipate, with further progress, that we may be able, from the week commencing 1 June, to welcome back more children to early years, school and further education settings. We will only do this provided that the 5 key tests set by government justify the changes at the time, including that the rate of infection is decreasing and the enabling programmes set out in the roadmap are operating effectively. As a result we are asking schools, colleges and childcare providers to plan on this basis, ahead of confirmation that these tests are met.'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Our plans

These plans are subject to change - we'll continue to update you when we can.

The government aims to confirm details on 28 May. We appreciate that leaves timescales very tight. However, if you've had it confirmed with school, then be assured we will definitely have a space for your child.

Week commencing 01 June 2020

On Monday 01 June, we'll not be open. This is so that we can prepare for increased numbers the next day.

For the rest of that week, we're expecting the number of children to rise substantially. This prediction is based on your survey responses, which indicate that more and more key workers will be required to be back at work, and therefore the demand for places from families who are key workers is projected to at least treble in size.

If actual numbers match the survey responses, we'll already have significantly increased numbers and will be close to capacity. We're determined to accommodate these children in line with all safety guidance we've received.

Please note that we'll close at 12 pm on Fridays. This will continue until further notice.

All children who have been regularly attending school in the last few weeks have a place in this week. We've confirmed with other parents/carers if their child has a place at school starting in this week.

Week commencing 08 June 2020

This week is open to some review based on the numbers we've had in school in the previous week. Our current aim is to open school more widely to a small number of additional Year 1 and Year 6 children. There are various criteria that we're considering, such as criteria around free school meals, which seems a fair way to do this.

As before, we can and will accommodate any additional children in line with all safety guidance we've received.

Week commencing 15 June 2020

This week is open to a lot of review based on the numbers coming in to school. We have three broad options that we'll continue to consider:

1. to continue to open school more widely to limited numbers of Year 1 and Year 6 children (two of the year groups identified by the government as a priority)
2. to invite children from other year groups where we know there are exceptional circumstances and/or there is a real need
3. to consider opening for children in Reception where the families qualify for free school meals

Our preferred options at this stage are Option 1 or 2, or some sort of combination. Option 3 is less likely based on survey responses and our capacity to make sure provision is safe for the youngest children, and – importantly – provision is appropriate.

Who should attend?

To confirm: children who have been attending school in the last few weeks have a place from Tuesday 02 June.

We've confirmed with other parents/carers if their child has a place at school from Tuesday 02 June.

For parents who are not key workers:

We'll communicate with you when we have space and capacity to welcome your child back at school. Following reviews each week, we intend to invite more and more children back to school. If you choose to send your child to school, we encourage you to send them every day:

- if you don't send your child every day, it means a place in school is being taken up that we can't easily allocate to another child
- with consistent numbers, we can plan appropriate staffing
- with consistent numbers, we can also plan sequences of lessons; these will be harder for your child to access if they only attend for a couple of days each week

For parents who are key workers:

If you're a key worker, we understand that you don't have a great deal of choice about whether your child attends school or not, and you might still have concerns about your child attending school. We understand that you might prefer to only have your child attend when you need to. At some point, hopefully when parents / carers feel comfortable and confident, we'll begin to expect your child to attend on a daily basis. In the meantime, we appreciate that some of you might prefer sending your child back to school only when you need to.

For all:

A register for attendance will be carried out every day.

Those not attending will continue to have access to home learning tasks published on our website.

Our priorities

We want our school to continue to be a happy and healthy place to learn.

During the school closure, we know that children may have had very different experiences in terms of family life (for example, they may have experienced bereavement) and in terms of learning (for example, some will have been able to access the home learning enthusiastically, and others less so). As a result, we know that lessons in school won't be as they were before, though many of the same good teaching principles apply.

Some of our priorities will be:

- the safety and hygiene of children and adults, a priority above all else
- the wellbeing of children: we'll talk, play games, read stories
- to establish rules and new routines, but in a gentle way
- to wash hands frequently: we've timetabled many key points in our day when this must happen
- to get outside as much as possible (and when this happens, high-touch areas, such as tables, chairs, door handles and taps, will be cleaned)

Our learning priorities will be the core skills of reading, writing and maths, but there will be time for other, enriching/relaxing activities, too. Lessons will be shorter to allow for handwashing and other practical considerations that weren't needed before lockdown.

Minimising contact and mixing

Children will be placed in groups of no more than nine and will work with the same adults. These consistent, separate groups will be referred to as *bubbles*. Each bubble will be assigned a classroom to be used by that bubble only. It's not possible for every child to be in their own classroom with their own teacher. Children and adults from one bubble will not mix with those from another.

In the classrooms, children will sit two metres away from others. They will be provided with their own learning packs with essential resources – pencils, whiteboards and pens, etc.

Frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices

Children will be expected to wash their hands frequently: on arrival at school; before and after playtimes and lunch times; before leaving school; after using tissues; before and after using toilets; and at any other appropriate times. We strongly encourage you to send your child with hand cream.

Cleaning

Each time the children head outside, there'll be an adult who will wipe down high-touch areas. We'll also close at noon on Fridays to allow for rooms to be cleaned even more thoroughly.

Other safeguarding

Leeds City Council provided schools with a very comprehensive risk assessment document which covered 24 areas, including

- handwashing
- cleaning
- social distancing
- consideration for clinically extremely vulnerable and vulnerable staff and pupils
- controlling access into the school for staff, pupils and members of the public

Our school leaders have been working through the various points under these headings, totaling around 225. We're confident by taking a slow and measured approach, we can continue to make school a happy, healthy and safe place to be.

Some key points for you to know

Drop off and pick up

- Avoid coming into the school building, including to visit the office, unless by appointment.
- Make sure the bubble leader is fully up to date with your contact details and your child's medical information.
- Drop off and pick up your child at the allocated time, using the allocated gate and doors. Staggered entry and exit will avoid congestion on school grounds.
- Only one adult should drop off and pick up. In accordance with social distancing guidelines, this must be someone in your household.
- Avoid congregating on the playground and always keep at least 2m from other families.
- Leave the school site immediately after dropping off or picking up.
- At every drop off, speak to the bubble leader to confirm two things: no-one in your household is displaying symptoms; and current social distancing guidance has been followed. If you have more than one child attending, speak with your youngest child's bubble leader. In order to keep everyone safe, if social distancing guidelines are not being followed, you'll be asked to collect your child from school and keep them at home for 14 days (this is so that we can all be confident there is time away from school for symptoms to develop).

Other changes to school routines

School uniform

On the first day of the week, children should wear their usual school uniform. They should wear a clean set of clothes every day. If this means you run out of uniform, children should wear clothing that is as near to school uniform as possible. This could include PE t-shirts or other plain clothing.

Timings

Drop off

Foundation and Key Stage 1 children must come to school between 8.45am - 9.00am. They must enter school through the Y1/2 classroom door.

Key Stage 2 children must come to school between 9.00am - 9.15am and come into school through the Y5/6 classroom.

Monday – Thursday pick up

Foundation and Key Stage 1 children to be collected at 2.45pm - 3.00pm.

KS2 children to be collected at 3.00pm - 3.15pm.

Friday pick up (earlier to enable even more thorough cleaning)

Foundation and Key Stage 1 children to be collected at 11.45am - 12.00noon.

KS2 children to be collected at 12.00noon - 12.15pm.

If you have children in different key stages, then you can collect your child at the earlier time.

The school day

There will be changes to the timetable to allow for staggered playtimes and lunchtimes.

There will be changes to the curriculum. There'll be a big focus on emotional well-being and Living and Learning skills. English and Maths will be prioritised: teaching and learning goals will be to close any gaps in learning that might have arisen.

Classrooms will be set up to allow children to sit two metres apart. Your child will be allocated a desk and their own set of stationery.

We'll be learning outside as much as possible – the virus isn't as easy to catch outside, and it also means desks, chairs, door handles and other high-touch surfaces can be cleaned throughout the day.

Lunch and refreshments

If your child has a school dinner, it'll be a packed lunch type meal for the next few weeks. This so they can eat it in their room with children in their bubble.

Other children should bring a packed lunch.

If your child has milk, this will still be provided.

Your child must bring water in their own water bottle, taken home each day.

Your child might want to bring some fruit for a mid-morning snack (we'll provide a plastic bag to put this in if needed).

Things to bring to school

We're limiting the number of things that children bring in to school. Your child should bring only:

- a filled water bottle
- jacket
- lunch box (if they're not having a school dinner)
- fruit (ideally in a disposable bag or wrapper, but we'll provide a bag if needed)
- hand cream (optional, but this could be really useful)
- sun hat when appropriate

In warm weather, we'd prefer all-day sun cream to be applied before school. If this is a problem, children can bring sun cream that can then be left at school.

Children should **not** bring bags or PE kits.

Children will take home only their own belongings. They won't be bringing home things such as reading books, homework books or word sets.

Home learning

We'll continue to set three daily home learning activities for the many children who will remain at home. Over the next half-term of teaching and learning, there may have to be changes because more teachers will be in school, working with the increased numbers attending. The changes might include:

- online teaching might look a bit different – there might be shorter videos, for example, although we'll try really hard to avoid this, especially in the first few weeks
- some learning might be set by a teacher in one of our sister Sphere Federation schools
- some learning might be set by a teacher in our school but not in your child's class
- teachers may not be able to reply to emails as quickly as they have done as they'll be in school teaching

Cases and confirmed cases of Covid-19

Symptoms to be vigilant for:

- a new, continuous cough
- a high temperature
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

What if your child has symptoms of Covid-19?

If your child displays symptoms of Covid-19 **at home**, please don't send them to school. Please keep them at home for seven days. The rest of the household should take precautions, too.

Tell school so we can alert others if we need to.

If your child displays symptoms of Covid-19 **at school**, we'll contact you to collect your child as a matter of urgency.

We'll encourage the parent/carer to have their child tested:

- for children who are five or over, you should access this via the 111 online coronavirus service
- for those children who are under five, you should call 111

If your child tests positive for having Covid-19, your child should self-isolate for seven days, and all others in the household should self-isolate for 14 days.

If your child tests negative, they may return to school and other household members can end their self-isolation.

Parents/carers should tell us the results of the test as soon as they can.

Further guidance is available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

What if someone else in the household has symptoms of Covid-19?

Please don't send your child to school if someone in the household has symptoms. Tell school so we can alert others if we need to.

Further guidance is available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

What happens at school if there's a case of Covid-19?

No one will be named, but if a member of the bubble has been sent home with symptoms, you'll be informed. You can continue sending your child to school unless a case is confirmed. The outcome of a test will be shared with the bubble.

If a case is confirmed, everyone in the bubble will stay at home and isolate for 14 days. (The rest of the household doesn't need to do this.)

The bubble's room will be deep-cleaned.

This is constantly changing situation. The information here is all subject to change.

We'll continue to update you as much as we possibly can – keep looking out for our daily website posts and emails.

Thank you to all for your support over the last few weeks, and thank you also for being so understanding as we prepare to open school more widely, despite so much uncertainty.

Opening schools more widely: social distancing

Date: 29 May 2020

School leaders have prepared an extensive risk assessment to make sure that our children and staff stay safe in school from Tuesday 02 June 2020. Without our school community (pupils, parents / carers and staff) all adhering to the government guidance on social distancing, the measures we take in school will be undermined.

This policy outlines one aspect of how children **and** staff can stay safe at school by being alert to social distancing beyond school hours. Although the following refers to 'child' and 'parent / carer', the content applies equally to staff members. *The policy has been prompted by concerns raised by parents and staff that others may not always have been following social distancing.*

The government's message about social contact is changing, but we will always aim to follow the current message in school, and equally expect families to do so out of school. This is especially the case if your child is attending school. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing>

From Monday in England, you'll be able to meet in groups of **up to six people** from different households **outside** as long as you **remain two metres apart**. This means that parents and carers must ensure their child stays two metres away from other people – hugging and hand-holding, games like tig, tackling in football should all be avoided.

The only people to enter a home should be members of that household.

If a child says something that indicates they or someone in their household has not followed government guidelines, we'll do some or all of the following.

- continue a conversation with the child in an **informal, friendly** way – this will help us to gain a better understanding and (hopefully) reassure ourselves that social distancing has not been undermined (there will be no leading questions)
- contact the child's parents / carers to discuss what the child has said and to clarify the situation
- isolate the child away from the rest of the children in their 'bubble' while we wait for more clarification from the child or their parents / carers

Equally, if an adult says something that indicates another family may not have followed government guidelines, we'll follow this up too.

Ultimately, we may have to ask a parent / carer to collect their child from school and they may lose their child's place in the bubble. This is because our schools are close to capacity in terms of numbers in bubbles and there is a waiting list of other families wanting a place for their child.

We'd do this reluctantly, but this would be fair to other families in school who are following the guidance, many of whom are key workers and have less choice about whether their child should attend school, too. This is for the safety of all.

The final decision on whether a child can be in school safely lies with the Head of Federation.