

# Understanding Social Distancing

Social distancing is an idea that is introduced by a government. It includes asking people to do things that can help to slow the spread of a virus. Viruses are a type of germ and they can spread between people. Social distancing helps people to stay at a safe distance from one another so that the virus is less likely to spread.

When introducing social distancing measures, a government might ask people to:

- stay at home as much as possible;
- only meet people outside while keeping a safe distance apart;
- avoid going into other people's homes.

## What Might Social Distancing Look like at Home?

If social distancing is happening, you might have fewer visitors to your home than normal. This is because social distancing often suggests that people who don't live together should stay apart as much as possible. If people do visit your home, they might only stay in the garden and not come inside.

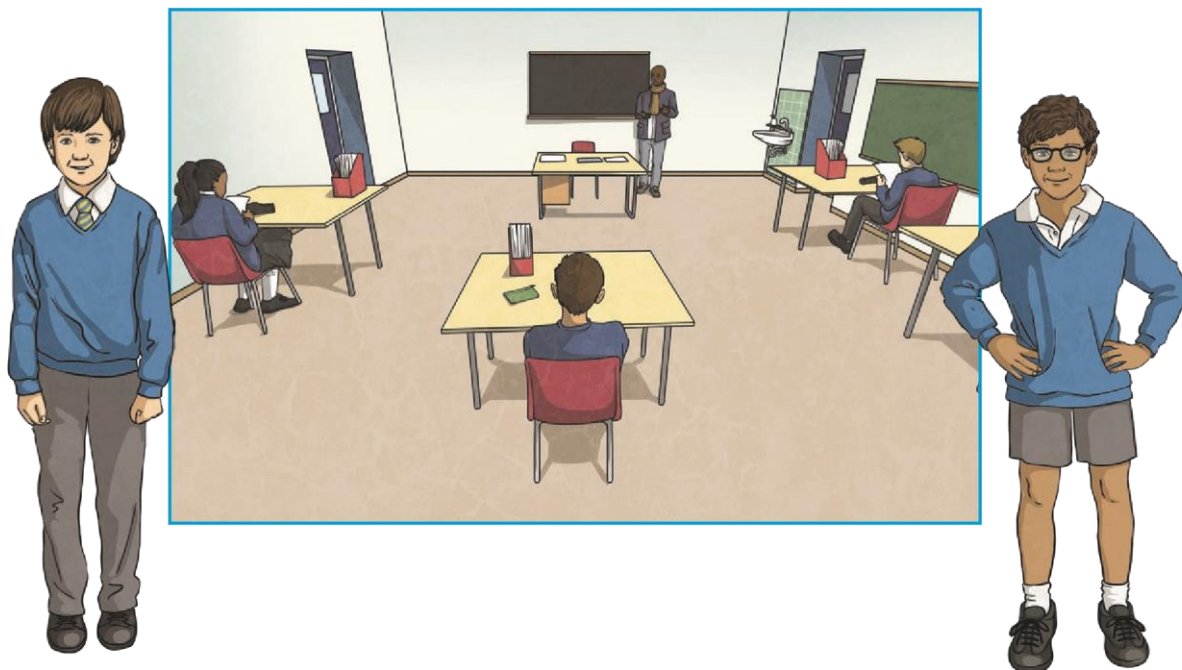
Myra and Jagrati are sisters who are socially distancing. They've not been able to see their grandparents in person for a while so they have been doing lots of video calls with them. Last week, they even put on a play together for them to watch. Everyone found it really funny! Although they wish that they could give their grandparents a hug, they know that they're helping to keep everyone safe by staying at a distance.



## What Might Social Distancing Look like at School?

At school, social distancing might mean that there are fewer people in your class with you. At breaktime and lunchtime, you could be asked to keep a safe distance from others and there might be a one-way system in place around the building.

Jozef and Donal have recently returned to school. When they first went back, everything felt a little strange but they soon got used to a new way of working. Their classroom had changed so that everyone has their own space to learn in. They've also found lots of fun games that they can play at a safe distance from one another.



### How Long Does Social Distancing Last For?

There are lots of things that a government has to think about before they can make changes to any social distancing guidelines. This means that it can be difficult to tell how long social distancing will last for. However, it's important to remember that it's put in place to keep people safe and is not meant to last forever.

government		a type of <a href="#">germ</a> that is harmful
social distancing		a general rule, principle, or piece of advice.
safe distance		the group of people with the authority to govern a country or state; a particular ministry in office
viruses		The space between one another so that the virus is less likely to spread
guidelines		the perceived or desired degree of remoteness between a member of one social group and the members of another