

Reopening School: Guidance for Parents and Carers



Last updated: 26th May 2020

Please read this guidance carefully before sending your child back to school.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to get in touch. Please note: this guidance is under constant review. We will respond to changes in advice / circumstances as required and notify parents with immediate effect.

Our approach is underpinned by three key principles:

1. We will try to minimise the risk to staff and pupils
2. We cannot guarantee social distancing between pupils
3. We can offer information to help families make choices but offer no guarantees

The rest of this document explains how we intend to implement our approach and manage the risks associated with coming back to school. We have consulted with many other schools in preparing this document. Our approaches are consistent with other local schools but may differ slightly due to different circumstances.

Frequently Asked Questions

If my child is eligible, is it compulsory for them to attend school?

No. If offered a place, it is entirely your decision whether to send your child back to school. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance. Nursery-aged children will not lose their places.

Should I keep my child at home if they have an underlying health condition or live with someone in a clinically vulnerable group?

Children who are *extremely clinically vulnerable* should continue to shield and are not required to attend school. As social distancing cannot be guaranteed, do not send your child to school if anyone in your household is currently shielding. If you are unsure, please seek medical advice.

What if my child is eligible to return but has siblings who are not?

We cannot accept siblings at this moment in time.

Preparing for school

- Pupils must wear freshly washed uniform every day for school. If you need to order new uniform, our suppliers (Pinders Schoolwear) are now accepting telephone orders via the website <https://pindersschoolwear.com/schools/243/WharncliffeSidePrimarySchool> or telephone (0114) 2513275.
- As we still do not have heating in school, please ensure they have a jumper / cardigan. Also, make sure they have a suitable coat every day as we intend to go outside for breaks. Please ensure children can dress themselves appropriately; this includes coats and shoelaces. For further guidance about Nursery children, please see the EYFS section.
- If the weather is going to be hot, please apply suncream at home (do not send it in to school). Pupils can wear a sunhat if required.
- Please send your child with a clean water bottle, clearly marked with their name; they will be able to refill this from the water cooler and we will send it home each night for cleaning. For lunchtime arrangements, please see the appropriate section below. Please do not bring anything else into school, e.g. toys / games, pencil cases, reading books etc. They do not need a bag.
- Please do not send in any presents for staff as we cannot accept them at this time.

Arrival at School

- Please walk to school if possible. You are responsible for maintaining social distancing until your child is in the school building. Please enter the yard via the bottom gate and leave via the top one. If you need to accompany them up to school, only one parent should do this.
- Children should enter the building via the external classroom doors.
- Drop-off times should be staggered to ensure too many people are not arriving at once. Children in Y1 upwards can be dropped off at any time between 8:45 and 9:15 and must go straight into school. Nursery and Reception children can be dropped off from 9am.
- Parents should not enter the school building unless invited by a member of staff. Please leave the school grounds as soon as possible after dropping off your child; do not hang around to talk to other parents.
- Upon arrival at school, children must wash their hands with soap and warm water before entering the classroom.

Organisation

- If allocated a place, children will be assigned to a group. Each group will have consistent staff and there will be no mixing between groups.
- Classrooms have been organised to encourage social distancing (see picture). This affects the maximum capacity of each classroom. Children in Y1 upwards will be allocated a table and expected to remain there throughout the day.
- Children can use the toilets by the cloakroom assigned to their classroom.
- Other areas of school such as the hall, library and music room will be out of bounds to pupils. There will be no whole-school assemblies.
- There will be limited sharing of resources. Children will not be allowed to bring reading books home from school.



- Groups will often be supervised by teaching assistants as teachers will be given PPA (Planning, Preparation & Assessment) time. This is to enable them to support the children who are not in school (see below).
- Only *essential* visitors to school will be allowed in; there will be no private music lessons or after-school clubs.
- There will be no educational visits, parents' evenings etc. for the foreseeable future. If your child has an EHCP and is due an annual review, we will offer this via Zoom.
- End-of-year reports are currently being written and will be sent home to all children ASAP (date TBC).

Breakfast Club / After-School Care

- We can provide wrap-around care if required but only for 'Key Worker' children as we cannot mix the groups. Further details available upon request. This offer may be withdrawn at short notice if the relevant staff are not available.
- This service **MUST** be booked and paid for in advance and is chargeable as follows:

Type	Time	Price	Additional Info
Breakfast Club	Drop off from 8am	£5 per day	Breakfast included
After-School Club A	Pick up before 4:30pm	£5 per day	Drinks / snacks provided
After-School Club B	Pick up before 6pm	£10 per day	Drinks / snacks provided

- Cash is no longer accepted, all payments must be made via sQuid.

EYFS Guidance (Nursery / Reception)

- Nursery aged children will not be expected to wear uniform – but please ensure they wear freshly-washed clothes and they are appropriately dressed for the weather. Please send a spare set of clothes that we can change them in to if they have an accident; we will keep these in school until required (rather than sending home each day).
- Children in EYFS (Nursery / Reception) will not be forced to sit at tables and may mix with other children from the same group.
- We can accommodate a maximum group size of 8 children at any one time (16 altogether)
- Staff will not be asked to provide the usual close contact that children are used to. If this is required, staff will be encouraged to wear PPE.
- Anything that is difficult to clean will be removed; this includes books, soft furnishing, pillows, bean bags and toys. Children will not be allowed to bring home any pictures they have painted or models they have made.
- Nursery aged children should bring their own packed lunches.

Health & Safety

- Children will be encouraged to wash hands more regularly than usual – for 20 seconds using warm water and soap.
- Staff will promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach – used tissues will be placed in a lidded bin.
- All frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, tables and toys will be cleaned regularly throughout the day using anti-bacterial spray. All areas will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day.
- PPE will be provided for staff to wear if they wish. Your child may be taught by someone in a face mask or visor. Children will not be permitted to wear PPE.

- There will be a small first-aid kit in each classroom to eliminate the need for most children to visit the first-aid area. There will always be a trained first aider on site to deal with more complex issues. This person WILL wear PPE if treating or waiting with your child.
- See 'symptoms' section below for more information.

Symptoms

- The most important symptoms of Coronavirus are: a new and continuous cough, a high temperature and a loss of (or change in) a person's normal sense of taste or smell. If you think your child has any of these symptoms, PLEASE DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL. If we believe a child in school has symptoms, we will send them home.
- If anyone in your household develops symptoms, they must self-isolate for 7 days. Everyone else in the household must self-isolate for 14 days. We will operate the same principles within school: if someone within a group has symptoms, the **whole group will be asked to self-isolate**. The only exception to this is with proof of a negative test result. These tests are most effective within the first 3 days of developing symptoms. More information can be found here: www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested.
- If we have a confirmed case of Coronavirus, we will inform Public Health and follow their advice. Everyone within that group (staff and pupils) will be informed and asked to self-isolate as above. The other family members of that person do not need to self-isolate unless the person isolating develops symptoms.

Learning & Behaviour

- We will continue to provide the same level of home learning activities for children who are not attending school – uploaded to our website every Sunday afternoon. You can request paper copies of these but they must be collected. The Sheffield Star Home Learning Supplement will also be available to collect every Friday morning. If your child is not attending school, you can still contact their teacher via email.
- Children attending school will complete the same activities as the ones provided for home learning. We will not be following the usual curriculum and teachers will provide 'verbal feedback' rather than 'marking' work.
- We will make use of outside learning wherever possible; especially in EYFS.
- Whilst we anticipate that children will be anxious about returning to school, we expect them to maintain our usual standards of behaviour. We will use PIEs (Post Incident Evaluations) to settle any conflicts that do arise. If children continue to disobey the rules, we will carry out a risk assessment on their ability to remain in school. If the risk to themselves or others is too great, you will be asked to keep them at home.

Playtimes

- Playtimes will be staggered so that children are only allowed to play with children from within their group.
- Pupils from the same group will be allowed to play together whilst outside but 'contact' sports such as football will not be allowed.
- We will try to get outside every day. If we can't go outside due to (extremely) bad weather, children will be expected to remain at their desks during breaktimes.
- There will be no snack bar available. Please send additional snacks in your child's lunch box if required.

- Staff within a group will stagger their own breaktimes.

Lunchtimes

- We will follow the same arrangements as above to manage lunchtimes.
- Children will eat their lunch at their table. Please either send a packed lunch or your child can order a 'grab-bag' from the kitchen (chargeable unless your child is entitled to free school meals). No hot meals will be provided. If sending a packed lunch, please ensure you do not send nuts or any item containing nuts.
- We will continue to use the Free School Meals voucher system for as long as we are able. If this is discontinued, we will give you as much notice as possible.
- If you receive Free School Meals and your child is attending school, they will be provided with a grab-bag rather than a voucher.

Hometime

- If your child is in EYFS (Nursery / Reception), please collect them from the Nursery at 3pm. Please wait outside and maintain social distancing (there will be markers on the floor to assist you with this). Collection times for other groups will be staggered slightly; we will let you know what time to collect your children in due course.
- If your child is in the IR and comes to school via SEN transport, school can arrange this on your behalf. If you have any queries about how this will be managed, you may need to contact them directly.
- Children who usually walk home on their own will be encouraged to leave the yard straight away. Please consider their ability to social distance before allowing this.
- We will not be setting any additional homework.
- All letters will be sent via email. If you do not receive these, please get in touch with the school office.

THANK YOU FOR READING