

Frequently Asked Questions

November 2020

From Thursday 5 November, the government has placed England in a second national lockdown. This means that there are stricter restrictions in place and school need to remind all parents of our procedures, asking that you help us by following them to support school. We fully appreciate that some of these measures are inconvenient and add time to your busy days, but by working together we can, as a community, help reduce the number of infections and help keep our schools open.

The government expects that all children attend school full-time as they have done since September.

In order for us to ensure this is done safely, we have put in place a series of actions that must be followed.

- You must not attend the setting if you or a member of your household is displaying symptoms of Coronavirus- cough, temperature, loss of smell or taste
- If your child develops symptoms at school, you will be contacted immediately and your child will need to be isolated- refer to FAQ below
- Only one parent should bring their child/ren to school to limit the number of persons on the playgrounds at key times of the day
- There will be designated markers and a strict one way system around the schools to support you social distancing and we would ask that you in turn help train your child to use them correctly
- We would prefer all children to walk to school wherever practically possible to limit the amount of additional vehicles on the road and limit the use of public transport
- Children will remain in their class bubbles both in school, at break and lunchtimes, except where parents have been notified. The government have said that classes and year groups can form 'bubbles'. Airedale Junior School have restricted this to Class bubbles for learning and socialising.
- Children should not wait on the playground for longer than necessary; they should arrive no earlier than 5 minutes before their allocated time and leave the site promptly to go straight home.
- Parents and children should not gather in groups on the playground or stand within 1m+ of others who are not of their own household- social distancing and hand washing are the two major prevention measures for coronavirus Covid-19
- Children should not play on fixed equipment or with children while waiting to enter school- All children will wash their hands on entry into school and we would encourage them to do the same when they return home at the end of the day
- All children will wear the full school uniform unless it is designated PE day and then they will come in their School PE kit. This will support children as they will not be bringing additional items into school. The list of uniform expectations is on the website and all children are expected to adhere to them.

- We will stagger all break times and lunchtimes to reduce the volume of people in one space at a time and children will have designated spaces to play on the playground
- We will try to provide outdoor learning when appropriate but understand that the weather restricts this.
- Children will need to have a coat, water bottle and book bag (with reading record and book) every day but should not bring anything else into school

FAQ

You use the term 'bubble' in your policies and procedures- what do you mean?

- We use the term 'bubble' as we feel it best shares the level of protection will can give to children. A bubble is a designated class group. Adults can work between these groups in order to keep children in school if staff are absent, but we will limit the movement of the children. We have allocated dedicated staff to each class in order to protect the workforce as well.

Will my child see their friends?

- Children will be able to mix within their own bubble but not within the year group. As we are already in Tier 2 and from Thursday in a national lockdown, then contact will continue to be limited.

Social distancing is so difficult with children- how will you manage this?

- The government has said that children should have limited movement around the school site, internally, and externally but once inside their classroom, there is no need to socially distance. They do however have to sit facing the teacher and classes have been rearranged to support this.

Will Breakfast Club and After School run?

- Breakfast Club and After School Clubs are unable to run at the moment. We are unable to safely staff and provide space for children from multiple bubbles.

What does my child wear to school?

- Children will attend school in full school uniform and black shoes
- Usual policy applies for hair being tied up and only stud earrings to be worn- please see the website for uniform information
- Children wear school PE kit on their designated PE days and should not wear earrings to school on this day

What happens if my child develops symptoms?

- If they are at home, they need to remain there and advice sought from 111/119 - access to testing will be arranged. They should not come into school until a negative test result can be demonstrated to staff at school.

- If they are at school, we will send them home you need to organise for them to have a test. They must not return to school until the results are back and should isolate at home
- A negative test- child returns to school if they are well enough to do so
- A positive test and school need to be informed immediately as the rest of the class group and staff will need to isolate for 14 days. Wider household members would not need to isolate unless the child/staff presents with symptoms

What if my child is poorly and they don't have a temperature, cough or loss of taste and smell?

- Usual sickness policy applies- if your child is vomiting then we will require them to remain at home for 48 hours from the point they stop being sick and you need to telephone school to inform us
- If your child has symptoms which include diarrhoea they must not come to school for 48 hours and we would advise you contact 111 as this is a reported secondary, but not definite, symptom of coronavirus in some patients. You need to telephone school to inform us
- If your child tells us at school they do not feel well, we will contact you to collect them

Will my child have regular temperature checks?

- No- We do have an electronic thermometer to use at school if we have concerns or a child complains of feeling unwell then this information can be shared with you
- If you or someone in your household has a temperature e, do not send your child to school and follow the NHS guidance of testing and isolation. You must inform school immediately so that we can plan for others you/your child may have come into contact with

Will my child be eligible for testing?

- Anyone who has a child in a setting or members of their household will be entitled to a test if they display symptoms- these can be accessed through 111/119 online service unless the child is under 5 and then you must telephone 111
- School will not carry out tests at this time- you need to visit a designated test site

Will staff be tested?

- Testing is already available for all essential staff including those who work in school.

What happens if a member of staff tests positive after being in school?

- You will be notified along with all members of their bubble to start the designated isolation period. Other members of your household do not need to isolate unless symptoms develop- in this case contact 111/119 as usual.

Will staff wear PPE/should my child wear PPE?

- Government guidelines are that children and staff SHOULD NOT wear additional PPE and that handwashing and good personal hygiene/clothes washing are sufficient measures
- Some staff have chosen to wear PPE, and this is their choice, but for those in the catering department, visors are worn for additional protection.
- Face masks for children in particular are likely to increase the risk of transmission - young children especially may not use them correctly or may remove them during the day leading to cross contamination- they will not be allowed into school with a face mask on to prevent accidental transmission
- If your child develops symptoms or requires first aid/medical assistance, adults supporting or treating your child will wear full PPE and you will be notified
- Adults who care for children who receive intimate care or routine medical support will wear PPE for their protection and that of your child
- Adults preparing and serving dinners will wear face visors for further hygiene measures

Will school provide meals as usual?

- School meals will be provided in the same way as they were before the pandemic
- Children are able to choose hot meals or bring packed lunches and the menus are posted each week

We are shielding under advice from the Government- what should we do?

- Where families have been advised by healthcare professionals or have received notice from the government that they should shield, we will work with you to support your next steps- please speak with us to discuss this further as each case will be individual

We have experienced bereavement during or as a result of Covid-19, is there support for my children?

- Wakefield Education Psychology Dept. have sent schools documents to help them support your child
- Staff have accessed a webinar to help them comfort and support your child
- The learning mentor team are working every day and are there for support if your child needs it
- We use information from Star Bereavement and you can access the same information and support here - <https://www.starwakefield.org.uk/>

I am concerned that my child has heightened anxiety and their mental health is being challenged by the pandemic

- All teachers have received access to dedicated on-line training for supporting children back to school from Wakefield Psychology Services national webinars
- Mental health and well-being activities are routinely planned in to support children who are remaining at home or returning to school

- The Learning Mentor team is on site every day to support staff and children

I want to talk to someone at school about a problem, a concern or for information what should I do?

- Please avoid face to face contact in the front office where possible
- If you can, please telephone school, someone will put you through to the right person
- Please try to avoid chatting to staff on the playground at the drop off and pick up- it's not that we don't want to talk, but we need to maintain a flow on and off site while maintaining social distancing
- If you need to speak with the teacher in your child's class, telephone/message via seesaw and they will call you back as soon as they can
- For payments, please use the electronic system so the office staff do not have to handle money- we need to keep them safe too
- We will limit sending out paper copies of information so please make sure you check the social media feeds, website and app frequently

We understand that this is a confusing and worrying time for everyone. We want to reassure you that we will take every possible step to ensure safety at all times. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will try to help.

All information is sent out via Face Book, the school APP and the website. Please refer to these three locations before contacting the school office; as you will appreciate we are experiencing a high volume of queries and may not be able to respond as quickly as we would usually do.