

## **GUIDANCE FOR FULL OPENING - SCHOOLS (2 July 2020)**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

***The lengthy guidance incorporates much of the existing advice for the wider opening of schools: the bullets below tend to focus on the new content related to September and colleagues are strongly advised to read the hyperlinked document in full.***

- All pupils in all year groups return to school full-time from September
- No 'one-size-fits-all' approach; school leaders will be best placed to understand the needs of their schools and communities, and to make informed judgments about how to balance delivering a broad and balanced curriculum with the measures needed to manage risk
- The overarching principle of reducing the number of contacts between children and staff, by keeping groups separate (in 'bubbles') and through maintaining distance between individuals; the balance between them will change depending on children's ability to distance, the layout of the school, and the feasibility of keeping distinct groups separate while offering a broad curriculum (especially at secondary)
- In KS4 and KS5, groups will likely be the size of a year group; at primary school and in KS3 groups may be the size of a full class; APs may wish to adopt whole school bubbles
- Some schools may keep children in their class groups for the majority of the classroom time, but also allow mixing into wider groups for specialist teaching, wraparound care and transport; siblings may also be in different groups
- All teachers and other staff can operate across different classes and year groups, keeping 2m distance from pupils and other staff as much as they can, avoiding close face to face contact and minimising time spent within 1 m of anyone
- Considering staggered break times and lunch times; how shared staff and pupil spaces are set up and used; staggered starts or adjusting start and finish times to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave school, without reducing the amount of overall teaching time
- Social distancing guidance will not apply from the autumn term on dedicated school transport; public transport use by pupils, particularly in peak times, should be kept to an absolute minimum
- School attendance will be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term
- Staff taking a holiday abroad over the summer period may be required to quarantine for 14 days on their return; staff will need to be available to work in school from the start of the autumn term
- Routine Ofsted inspections will remain suspended for the autumn term, but inspectors will visit a sample of schools in the autumn to discuss how they are managing the return to education of all their pupils and inspections will recommence from January 2021.

A sizeable section of the guidance is devoted to **curriculum expectations**, including the following:

- If modifications are made, plans should be in place to allow the school's normal curriculum to be delivered in all subjects by summer term 2021
- An ambitious and broad curriculum should be provided in all subjects from the start of the autumn term, using existing flexibilities to create time to cover the most important missed content, prioritising the most important components for progression rather than removing subjects
- Guidance is offered regarding physical education and steps to manage the additional risk of infection in arts subjects where individuals are singing, chanting, playing wind or brass instruments or shouting, including limiting group sizes to 15
- Ofqual is [consulting on modifications to examinations in 2021](#) to reflect lost learning opportunities because of C19; primary assessments will take place in 2021 as normal
- For the new exam series in autumn 2020, we expect the centre that entered them for the summer series to enter them in the autumn series and take overall responsibility for ensuring that they have somewhere appropriate to sit their exams
- Schools are expected to have a **strong contingency plan in place for remote education provision** by the end of September – a sizeable section of the guidance covers **new expectations on schools**, along with new resources, including optional curriculum maps for key subjects for year groups from Reception to year 9, a quality assured list of resources, free video lessons covering the entire national curriculum, government-funded access to one of two free-to-use digital education platforms: Google for Education or Microsoft Office 365 Education; free access to BT WiFi hotspots for disadvantaged pupils
- Risk assessments will need to be updated in line with the new guidance, along with child protection policies; DSLs (and deputies) should be provided with more time in the first few weeks of term.