

Parental Questions and Answers

Possible Phased Return to School for Children in Foundation 2, Year 1 and Year 6

Please see the information below. A great deal of this information is from government advice but we have added other information which parents / carers at Kingsway may require. As you will understand, in the current circumstances with ever-changing guidance we are doing the best we can for our school and children with the information available to us.

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

We understand that some children and families may be self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence such as shielding due to health conditions.

It is important to be aware that the return of your child is not compulsory and is your decision as parents / carers. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.

Please notify us via emailing office@kingsway.notts.sch.uk if your child is unable to attend so that staff are aware and we can discuss with you if you wish.

Will school keep its usual opening hours?

In the interests of social distancing school will make changes to our start and finish times for each year group and introduce processes for drop-off and collection procedures to keep children and families safe. These times will differ from those for key worker and vulnerable children.

Start and finish times will be clearly communicated to parents and carers, alongside other arrangements, when the details of reopening have been decided.

Will all children in eligible year groups (Foundation / Year 1 / Year 6) start on the 1st June?

No. The 1st June was a date identified for the government for a possible phased return for the eligible year groups and has not yet been finalised. School will reopen its doors for a possible phased return when risk assessments are completed and this will be done as a gradual response. Please do not assume that because your child is in one of the eligible year

groups and you have emailed the office to confirm you would be happy for your child to return that they will be attending school on 1st June. As noted in the letter to parents / carers on 18th May, it is important to remember that we are still very much in the preparation phase.

If my child returns to school will they be with their friends? Their teacher? In their usual classroom?

We are unable to guarantee any of the above as we do not know yet which children will be returning to school. As part of infection control, children will be split into small groups or 'bubbles' with a maximum of 15. This could be smaller as our school building has classes which are variety of sizes. As each year group usually has two classes and this will be at least four groups if a whole year group attends, some children will be taught by a different member of staff in a different room. As government guidance states, *'Normally one teacher should be allocated to a group but if there are any teacher shortages then support staff may be used to lead groups, under the direction of a teacher.'*

Will my child be able to see children in other groups / 'bubbles' at lunch or breaktime?

No. The government states that once children are in these groups they must not socialise with any other groups and will therefore have different break and lunchtimes in or to keep them apart.

If I decide I would like to send my child back to school as part of the phased return for children in Foundation 2, Year 1 and Year 6 can they return just for certain days?

No. Once the groups / bubbles are established and you have chosen that your child will attend we would expect them to attend for the provision available to their year group for the whole week.

I am a key worker and my child has been attending previously. Can I drop them off with the key worker group and then have them go into their year group if they are in Foundation 2 / year 1 / year 6?

No. Once bubbles are established children will remain in these and can not be swapped between. You will have to decide whether your child will attend at the key worker timings or at their year group timings.

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

We are asking that only these year groups return to childcare providers, schools and colleges. This does not include siblings in different year groups unless those siblings are in a priority group, for example, the children of critical workers.

Reducing the risks for children and staff is our utmost priority.

Will education be provided as normal to children and young people who are attending? What sort of work will they be doing?

Education settings still have the flexibility to provide support and education to children and young people attending school in the way they see fit during this time.

Early years settings should use their best endeavours to deliver the learning and development requirements as far as possible in the current circumstances.

Schools and colleges continue to be best placed to make decisions about how to support and educate their pupils during this period. This will include:

- consideration of pupils' mental health and wellbeing
- assessment of where pupils are in their learning in order to make any necessary adjustments to their curriculum over the coming weeks
- prioritisation of high needs groups and support for those in transition years

Schools and colleges should use their best endeavours to support pupils attending as well as those remaining at home, making use of the available remote education support.

Learning in the classroom will be very different during the phased return. Classrooms will be arranged in a way which observes social distancing and staff will not be able to support children in close proximity. The Government does not expect schools to follow the full National Curriculum at this time therefore we will adapt the curriculum to take into account these restrictive measures.

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

Children and young people who are considered extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should continue to shield and should not be expected to attend.

Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category.

Children and young people who live in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child or young person is able to understand and follow those instructions. Children and young people who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) as defined in the social distancing guidance and including those who are pregnant, can attend.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in my child's school, or childcare setting?

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus.

Where the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their group within school should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class/group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

In some cases, a larger number of other children and young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure - perhaps the whole class, site or year group.

If my child feels unwell, should I bring them?

No, the government has been very strict on the symptoms to be aware of. If children are showing any Covid 19 symptoms they should not attend school. Please contact the school if you believe that your child has come into contact with any confirmed Covid 19 cases.

What to do if your child has symptoms of coronavirus

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Use the [111 online coronavirus service](#) if your child is 5 or over. Call 111 if they're under 5.

You should follow self isolating measures in line with government guidance.

Will there be any transition preparation for children in Year 6?

Transition will be reliant on communication from secondary schools as this usually involves visits. We will do any activities the secondary schools send us linked to transition.

How should my child travel to and from their childcare, school or college?

Children, young people and parents are encouraged to walk or cycle where possible and avoid public transport at peak times.

My child has additional needs (SEND) and is eligible to return. Is there anything that needs to be done prior to their possible return?

We understand that all children, no matter who they are, may have been struggling with the changes lockdown has brought. We want school to be a safe and happy place for ALL pupils. It may be necessary for some pupils not to attend school due to their emotional welfare and the changes which we have had to make as part of the possible phased return relating to staffing, timings and routine may negatively affect certain children more than others. The new systems school has put in place and expectations for social distancing, hand washing and who they can socialise with etc may also be challenging to some children to understand and follow.

Please email office@kingsway.notts.sch.uk and Mr Painter will contact you directly to discuss any concerns you may have so every effort can be made to ensure ALL pupils and staff are safe.