

# The Inspire Partnership

## Parent/Carer Frequently Asked Questions

### Our shared response to Covid-19



*"A learning community's well-being has a lot to do with the quality of relationships, cohesion, inter-dependence and belonging."*

## Inspire Partnership Frequently Asked Questions: Covid-19

### Our 'Why'

The Partnership was formed with a clear mission to transform the lives of children through partnership and collaboration. We have chosen to work in schools that have historically required support, serving some of the most vulnerable families in the country. All of us have witnessed the effect the Covid-19 has had in all communities but especially those serving our poorest children. We believe that with measures in place and by following strict guidelines to ensure staff are protected, on balance it is better for our children to return to school than to be at home. We believe it is better emotionally, physically and developmentally.

As part of our planning, we are conducting risk assessments at individual school level and will use these to produce a detailed action plan which we are using to guide us through the next stage of re-opening

### Parent FAQs

- I have a sibling that is not in YN, YR, Y1 or Y6 – can they attend school?
  - To ensure that we can operate as safely as possible, we will need to prioritise the groups as set out in the Government guidance – Children with a Social Worker, Education Health Care Plan pupils, Key Worker, Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & Year 6
- Will I be fined if I do not send my child to school?
  - No, there will be no fines issued for the remainder of this academic year, you must make your decision to send your child/ren back to school, based on your own circumstances, however, we strongly recommend that those children that can attend school, do so. The benefits of our youngest, in key transition stages of education and our most vulnerable will benefit from the structure and learning opportunities that can be provided in a school setting.
- Will children have to wear uniform?
  - As a partnership we believe that our uniforms help create a sense of belonging and connection for our children and communities, we would like all children to wear school uniform as is our current practice
  - We do understand that with increased emphasis on washing clothes daily, that you may not have enough uniform, there will be some leeway to ensure that you can help us all keep safe by following the cleaning routines to help mitigate the possibility of contracting Covid-19.
- Is the breakfast club / after school club available?
  - Breakfast and after school club is currently unavailable. Please email the school office at [info@forestacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@forestacademy.org.uk) for further information.

- I have concerns around social distancing during play/lunch, how will this be managed?
  - We will be ensuring that children remain with their small groups and only access break/lunch/start/finish times with their small group – where possible. We will not be allowing small groups to mix.
- Will the children's hands be sanitised or washed on the way into school, in lines and other times?
  - As current practice, we will be sanitising or hand washing on entry, after each session, before and after break/lunch and before leaving – Each child will be allocated their own stationery to use to help avoid unnecessary sharing of resources

In line with the DFE guidance for cleaning of school premises during Covid-19, we have been working with individual schools to ensure that there is the capacity to put all measures in place.

We will be ensuring that there will be additional facilities available at each school, with the following in place:

- Enhanced handwashing routines to be shared with staff and pupils
- Additional hand washing stations available throughout key areas of the school including the dining hall, small group rooms, toilets and outdoor areas
- Each small group room will have non-bleach cleaning products and cloths available
- Premises and cleaning teams will conduct routine cleaning of high risk items (door handles, push bars etc) throughout the day
- Hand sanitiser or hand wash facilities will be available in all key areas – entry and exit points, staff rooms, dining hall, small group rooms etc

Each school based risk assessment has taken account of the above and we will ensure that each site has enough supplies to meet the demand placed during this time.

- I'm self-isolating and concerned my child will contract Covid-19 and bring it home
  - We understand these concerns, we will do all we can to keep everyone as safe as possible – The government have updated their guidance on the various vulnerable groups, please see below the government guidance:

### **Who is clinically extremely vulnerable?**

Expert doctors in England have identified specific medical conditions that, based on what we know about the virus so far, place someone at greatest risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

Clinically extremely vulnerable people may include the following people. Disease severity, history or treatment levels will also affect who is in the group.

1. Solid organ transplant recipients.
2. People with specific cancers:
  - people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy
  - people with lung cancer who are undergoing radical radiotherapy
  - people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
  - people having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
  - people having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
  - people who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
3. People with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe chronic obstructive pulmonary (COPD).
4. People with rare diseases that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell).
5. People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection.
6. Women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired.

People who fall in this group should have been contacted to tell them they are clinically extremely vulnerable.

### **Clinically vulnerable people**

If you have any of the following health conditions, you are clinically vulnerable, meaning you are at higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. You should take particular care to minimise contact with others outside your household.

Clinically vulnerable people are those who are:

1. aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions)
2. under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (that is, anyone instructed to get a flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds):
  - chronic (long-term) mild to moderate respiratory diseases, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis
  - chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
  - chronic kidney disease
  - chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis
  - chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS), or cerebral palsy
  - diabetes
  - a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as HIV and AIDS, or medicines such as steroid tablets
  - being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)
  - pregnant women

Where you or a member of your household fall in to the **clinically extremely vulnerable** or the **clinically vulnerable people** there is detailed guidance for how other members in your household can support protect, as far as possible, in the potential spread of Covid-19

The detailed guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

- **How will you be protecting the children from Covid-19?**

Each school is developing detailed plans that are following all government guidance in relation to the phased-reopening of schools, this is the safest way to operate and ensure we are doing all we can to keep all of us as safe as possible – Each school will be sharing more detailed plans in the upcoming days, some of the things that we will be implementing are set out below:

- We will be operating strict hygiene and social distancing guidance – we have visual markings within small groups and in all communal areas to indicate the spacing required – small groups will not be mixing to ensure we can keep as safe as possible – each small group will have their own play equipment that will be sanitised after every use

Below are some key things that will help maintain small groups:

- Staggered start time and finishing times for each Year group, minimising the amount of people and contact at any one time
- Staggered break and lunch times – ensuring that each small group have their own stationery, play equipment etc to avoid as much cross contamination as possible
- By limiting the number of adults, as appropriate given the need to support children, in contact with particular groups – where this is not possible, ensuring that the strict hygiene routines are in place
- Ensuring that each small group has their own cleaning equipment to supplement and enhance the daily cleaning programme in place

- **I'm concerned about different year groups going back at different times**

- We have developed a comprehensive curriculum to support those returning to school, and will continue to share high-quality home learning for those that are unable to return, calls home and virtual assembly will continue as normal

Some key principles of our 'usual' curriculum will feature in our plans such as working towards a project outcome and using a core text to focus the learning, but the journey will be framed around the aims of our new recovery curriculum.

As we begin to enter into this next recovery phase, we recognise that reconnecting with each other will be a key piece of work and therefore we have decided to take a whole school core text approach as way of enabling us all to reengage with learning together. The text we have chosen: 'Rules of Summer' by Shaun Tan as we have used this across the Trust in the past with very successful outcomes.

- We will be linking the home learning with the core text and providing more interactive ways of engaging with learning if your child/ren are not able to attend school physically.
- How will the parents be distancing on the school grounds?
  - We have staggered start and finish times to ensure there is as little congestion as possible. We ask all adults when dropping off and picking up to keep the 2 metre distance rule.
  - Our school office will be closed during this period as we cannot offer a safe 2 metre distance for adults. Members of the Leadership Team will be outside every day to talk to parents at a safe distance. If you have any concerns or questions, please phone the school or send an email to [info@forestacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@forestacademy.org.uk)
  - Only one known adult can drop off or pick up children; this is to ensure that we keep the number of adults on the school grounds to a minimum.
- What are you doing to help children's anxieties - especially those who already suffer from anxiety?
  - We have developed a recovery curriculum that focuses on re-connecting with children, enabling them to talk about their experiences. Our pastoral teams across the Partnership have developed training for all staff, developed resources to specifically help children that have suffered or are suffering from anxiety related to the current pandemic.
- What additional support will there be for SEN children?
  - We have developed social stories as well as having all pupils' individual education plans in place, prioritising their transition back to school and emotional well-being – We will be contact children and families where a child has an identified SEND to ensure there is personal contact and we can discuss the planned areas of support directly with those families.
- How will the school day be staggered?
  - Each of our schools will be staggering the days in which children return to school, as well as all key points in the day, to ensure that groups of children are safely managed and can navigate around school in as safe a way as possible
  - Each school will be communicating with families to detail all of the arrangements, ensuring that all key information is shared as quickly as possible.
- Will the children have to line up in the morning?
  - Each of our schools will ensure that pupil groups are entering the building safely, staggering the start times to ensure that distancing can be achieved and children have a calm start to the school day.
  - Each school will be communicating with families to detail all of the arrangements, ensuring that all key information is shared as quickly as possible.
- Will you be taking the children's temperature before you let them in school?
  - We will not be taking children's temperatures, other than if a child informs us that they are not feeling well, as is current practice in schools.
  - The government guidance does not indicate that this practice should take place and could cause distress to children as well as slow children getting in to school – this

could cause issues in terms of numbers or adults congregating on school grounds.

- Will there be more opportunities to learn outside?
  - Our recovery curriculum will have an enhanced outdoor provision, we will be using our extensive outdoor areas as well as field and play spaces – small groups will not mix and will have allocated sessions.
  
- What will happen if a child or adult becomes unwell at school with Covid-19 symptoms?
  - If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in one of our schools they must be sent home and advised to follow the [guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#).
  - If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, with appropriate adult supervision. Ideally, a window will be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, we will move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.
  - If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.