



Walkwood

Church of England  Middle School

Returning to full-time school:
Questions and answers for parents & carers

September 2020
Year 8



1. How will my child's class be taught?

Pupils will be taught in classes that are mixed by College and ability. There will be about 27 in each class. They will be taught in the same classroom for most of the week and will register with the same group of pupils.

Desks will be in rows facing the front of the room. Desks will be cleaned at the end of each session. Classrooms will be fully cleaned at the end of each day. All bags and belongings will be kept in the classroom by pupils' desk as we will not be using lockers.

There will be the usual five sessions of teaching in a day, with break in the morning, as well as for lunch. Movement around school will be kept to a minimum. Movement within each classroom will be minimised too.

Learning will look different. Pupils will have teacher-led lessons and the books they will use shall mostly stay at their desks. Teachers will mark key pieces of work. Feedback will be as a whole group guided by the teacher from the front of the classroom. Verbal feedback to pupils will be part of lessons, as will guided self-marking. There will be no homework set for the time being – pupils will have had plenty of home learning since lockdown was first declared.

Pupils need to bring their own equipment/pencil case which they can store on their desk.

2. Do I have to send my child into school?

Yes. The government has made it clear that they would like all children to return to school. However, you must ensure that anyone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or has someone in their household who does, does not attend school. The symptoms are a high temperature (37.8°C and above), a new, continuous cough, and the loss or change to the sense of smell or taste.

Pupils must not attend school if they have tested positive in the last 7 days.

3. Will the class groups be the same as usual?

We shall do our best to place pupils appropriately. Movement between groups is not possible as this would compromise the safety criteria given for school reopening. Indeed, safety and the focus on learning are important features of the return to school. Pupils will be able to be with friends at break and lunch.

4. Will the tutor groups be the same as usual?

The government guidelines state that pupils from different year groups should not mix. As we would normally have tutor groups made up of pupils from each of the years 5 to 8, that cannot happen for the time being. Pupils will register in their teaching groups.

Pupils will still be in their colleges, and we shall tally the ePraise points in that way too. The College Leaders and Pastoral Managers will look after specific year groups for the time being. When circumstances allow, we shall return to the college system.

Ms Tomes will look after Year 8, supported by Mrs Russell.

5. As the year groups cannot mix, what happens about assemblies?

To reduce the possibility of transmission of the virus, we shall have assemblies with year groups, but only when necessary and certainly for short periods.

6. Will my child be expected to wear school uniform?

We believe that formality will help us quickly establish new routines and expectations. From September, all pupils must be in full and [correct uniform](#). We expect 100% support from parents in this respect. If the weather has the possibility of being problematic, we ask that pupils bring a coat. We shall look for them to be outside at break and lunch times if at all possible.

7. Is it true that a pupil's uniform must be washed every day?

No. The Department for Education has said:

Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, or in any different way to normal due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

8. Does my child need to bring any PE kit?

Not for this term. We shall have PE on the timetable, but it will be shorter. We cannot practically use the changing rooms at this stage.

9. Will the normal start and end times still apply?

There will be staggered starts and ends to the school day for different year groups of pupils. Year 8 will begin with registration at 9.40am, with the gates opening 10 minutes before.

If you escort your child to school, please drop off quickly and not stay at gates. If you are collecting children at day's end, you must do so from the area just inside the playground so social distancing is maintained.

Time	Year 6 / Year 8
09.40 – 10.00	Registration
10.00 – 10.55	Lesson 1
10.55 – 11.10	Break
11.10 – 12.05	Lesson 2
12.05 – 13.00	Lesson 3
13.00 – 13.45	Lunch
13.45 – 14.40	Lesson 4
14.40 – 15.35	Lesson 5

10. I have a pupil in another year group which has a different time. Can both pupils leave at the same time?

Years 6 and 8 will have the times shown here. The other year groups have times that work 50 minutes earlier. We acknowledge that this may present challenges, but pupils from Year 8 are not permitted to leave earlier with you or a sibling from Year 5 or Year 7.

11. What will happen regarding the cleaning of hands?

Sanitising will happen at the start and end of the day, as well as before and after eating. Sanitising can also occur at appropriate intervals within the day. Naturally, pupils will be able to wash their hands after they have been to the toilet. (The toilets will be cleaned regularly throughout the day.)

12. What will happen regarding breaks and lunchtimes?

Year 8 will use the back playground at break time, just like they have when there were in Year 7. However, they will have the area to themselves! They will not be able to use our equipment (such as the table tennis) or play contact games.



Lunchtimes will be staggered, although Year 8 will be the only year group to have lunch in the hall or dining hall at the time – it will be a separate sitting from Year 6. Like usual, Years 6 and 8 will alternate to be first into lunch, with Year 8 doing so for each timetable week 2.

We ask that you use ParentPay for lunches rather than giving cash to your child.

13. Is school catering available?

Break time tuck will not be available. Pupils will need to bring their own snack which they will store in their classroom.

School meals will be available at lunchtime. Pupils will line up and will be distanced by 1m when queuing and this will be marked on the floor areas. The usual menu will be available, although how it is served will be different from usual.

Pupils with packed lunch will keep that with their belongings in the classroom and bring it up to the hall to eat.

14. Does my child need to bring in their equipment?

Yes, they will need to have all the pens/pencils/colouring pencils/rulers/rubber/pencil sharpener, as well as a jotting book or pad. For Maths in Year 8, a scientific calculator and a pair of compasses will be needed. A glue stick would also be appreciated, as would a whiteboard pen, but these are not compulsory.

Your child is allowed to take their library book home to read.

15. What does my child do with their bags?

We recommend that children bring as little as possible, other than stationery, a bottle of water and their lunch. They will need to keep their bags at their desk. At break and lunch, bags will remain at each pupil's desk.

16. What about Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

The government's stance on face coverings in school has changed. We need pupils to wear a face mask when they are coming on to the school site, and they may choose to wear one when they are walking to or from school.

Pupils will need to wear their face mask when they move from their classroom, but will not wear it while they are in the classroom. We shall supply them with a plastic bag to put their mask in when they are not wearing it. Staff in school will wear face shields when they are with pupils.

Pupils will also need to wear their face mask when they are on the playground. We are stipulating this because they may well be playing with children who are outside the family bubbles, so wearing a mask will reduce the risk of cross-infection. This is not within any information from the Department for Education, but we think it is a measure that may reduce virus transmission across the community, and we shall keep this under review.

17. Will the library be used so my child can get a reading book?

Yes. The books have covers on which will have been wiped before being put on the shelves.

18. What happens if my child becomes ill?

Our duty first aider will contact you. If your child is showing symptoms of Covid-19, it is essential that you come to school immediately, and we shall let you know what you need to do next.

If your child has suspected symptoms of the coronavirus, we shall contact you insist that you collect your child straight away. The pupil will be kept in the first aid room, but will be separate from others.

It is then expected that you will book a test for the youngster and let us know the result as soon as possible.

19. What should I do if I suspect my child has coronavirus symptoms?

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus website](#), or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.

20. Remind me of the coronavirus symptoms, please.

Th symptoms are:

- a high temperature (37.8°C and above);
- a new, continuous cough;
- loss or change to the sense of smell or taste.

You should:

- [book a test](#) if they are displaying symptoms. Pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit.
- provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace.
- [self-isolate](#) if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

Your child always has to be – **C O R O N A - conscious** :



We will help with this in school. It will need reminders (we all forget). The Fruits of Faith of **friendliness, tolerance and honour** are demonstrated by being corona-conscious.

Children who do not demonstrate the corona-consciousness for deliberate reasons, including joking about the virus, using it to taunt someone, or behaving in ways that could put others at risk (for example, coughing or sneezing at someone are pretending to do so), will be challenged and stringent sanctions may be applied.



21. What happens if there is another lockdown?

We have prepared home learning materials for pupils in case a local lockdown is imposed. The arrangements will be slightly different from what we have given to pupils in the first stages of lockdown because we have worked out what has worked for middle school pupils and what could be improved upon.

22. How do I pass on any information about my child, as I would usually do to the tutor?

The best way is by email. We shall establish year group emails at the start of the new school year and publish these within *The Insider*.

23. What has the government published about the return to school in September?

The Department for Education issues daily updates to schools. Our Principal, Rev. Leach, checks what we are doing against the latest information from government.

Information for parents has been made available, and is available [here](#).

24. Will you continue to keep parents up to date?

Of course. We try very hard to get information to you promptly but not send out lots and lots of emails or texts. We shall use *The Insider* as well, for please check that each week when it restarts in September.

Stay safe
Be well

"When educating the minds of our youth,
we must not forget to educate their hearts."

Dalai Lama

