

## COVID 19 Updated Q and A sheet for Families

September 2020

In line with Government guidance and in discussion with the Trust, Local Authority and Governors we have continued to use our agreed set of principles to guide our decision making. We have also researched best practice guidance from world leading experts about the curriculum and what this should look like in September.

**Please note we will continue to monitor the situation over the holidays and will update you of any changes we make before your child returns to school.**

### General Health and Safety

#### **Q: Will my child need to attend school full time in September?**

- Yes, term starts on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

#### **Q: My child (or a member of our household) is shielding, is my child expected in school?**

- The current guidance is that all adults and children will be able to return to school in September with the measures that are in place. If the guidance changes we will contact you.

#### **Q: What time does the school open and will the start of the day be staggered?**

- School will open at **8.45 am**. Learners will need to wait in their vehicle until a designated member of staff asks them to come into school.
- On arrival to school learners will be asked to use hand sanitiser as well as hand in their electronic devices to members of the compassionate school's team. (if your child prefers to use water and soap we will accommodate this)
- Learners will then be directed to their classrooms.

#### **Q: Does my child need to wear school uniform?**

- All learners will be required to wear their school uniform Monday - Thursday
- Friday continues to be a non-uniform day.

#### **Q: Does my child need to get changed for their PE lessons?**

- Learners can get changed for PE in school. However, we are happy for learners to wear their PE kit to school on the day they have PE. Alternatively they can take part in PE lessons in their uniform.

If your child is new to the school or has had a growth spurt the uniform shop (Web Ellis in Rugby) are open. If you have any concerns about uniform please contact the family footing team.

#### **Q: Does uniform need to be washed more often?**

- No, in line with Government guidance, there is no need to wash uniform more regularly than you would normally.

#### **Q: Will my child be socially distanced at all times?**

- Learners will be encouraged to socially distance where space allows.
- Staff will also social distance from learners unless support is necessary and for the minimum time possible.
- In classrooms desks have been organised so that learners will all face the same direction so as to minimise face to face interactions.

- Learners from different classes will continue to be kept separate from each other.
- All classes will continue to have a designated break space, designated toilet and continue to eat breakfast and lunch in their classrooms.
- Breaks will be supervised by their class teams.

**Q: Will my child still be in a bubble?**

- We will no longer be using the term bubble as all learners have been allocated a class and class team.
- Specialist staff will deliver lessons for part of your child's timetable maintaining social distance and teaching from the front of the learning space.
- Personalised Learning lessons, Adventure, Community and Enterprise and Social skills will take place in classrooms and outside spaces with class teams and will focus on the following: mental health, alert programme, (sensory integration) resilience programme, literacy and numeracy.
- Learners will not be able to mix with their friends from different classes.

**Q: Can my child wear a face mask in school?**

- Your child can wear a mask if they would like to.

**Q: Can my child bring in their own hand sanitiser?**

- Due to the alcohol content of hand sanitisers learners will need to hand in any hand sanitiser alongside their electronic devices.
- All classrooms have hand sanitisers and learners may go to the toilet to wash their hands.

**Q: Will the school stay open if there is a local lockdown?**

- The school will be notified by the DfE as to what actions need to be taken. We have written an emergency plan which we will put in place based on our guiding principles, risk assessment processes and advice given.
- Dependent on the latest advice the wearing of masks in corridors and social areas may need to be enforced

**Q: What measures will the school continue to take to reduce the risk of contamination?**

- We have reviewed and updated the risk assessments, systems and procedures (linked to COVID 19) for September in line with new guidance.
- Signage and posters will be displayed to support safe practice.
- We will continue to employ extra cleaners and will continue to adopt additional cleaning regimes throughout the day.

We will also:

- Change the layout of the rooms in line with the latest guidance ( all tables facing forwards)
- Display posters to remind learners and staff about trying to keep 1 metre plus apart from others where possible.
- Continue to use a one way system downstairs and an "Up" and "Down" staircase.
- Stagger break and lunchtimes for Lower and Upper School
- Allocate designated areas for classes to have their break times which we are calling "break spaces". These will change each day to ensure learners are able to access different areas throughout the week.
- Use our script "Personal Space" to remind learners about social distancing.

- Allocate learners with their own laptop (as they have just been delivered they will all need to be reconfigured)
- Continue to allocate a specific toilet for specific classes
- Provide learners with hand sanitiser in classrooms (foam)
- Learners will be required to wash their hands before and after different activities

**Q: What changes have you made to your cleaning regimes to reduce cross contamination?**

- The soft play, sensory room, climbing room and library will continue to be out of use due to difficulties maintaining rigorous cleaning procedures. Should a learner need to access one of these rooms then we will ensure that the room is cleaned thoroughly after use. Staff will be made aware that a that a specific room has been used and waiting to be cleaned through use of signage
- Cleaners, for example, will continue to clean desks, door handles and other touch points during the day.
- In addition, class teams will continue to clean desks, keyboards, outdoor play equipment throughout the day.
- Where specialist rooms are used by different learners, staff will deep clean the areas and any equipment before another class uses the room. Prior to use staff will need to check the log.
- Staff and learners will wash their hands at specific times which will further reduce the risk of cross contamination.

**Q: What other measures have we put in place to reduce the risk of contamination?**

- Learners will be given their own pencil case and pens.
- Once laptops have been reconfigured all learners will have their own laptop.

**Q: How has the school reduced the number of people coming into contact with each other?**

- We will continue to hold the vast majority of meetings virtually.
- You will be able to come into school to meet with staff but will need to make an appointment to ensure that the meeting room is free.
- The Educational and Clinical Psychologist will be coming into school to work with specific children and meet with key staff but may use teams or zoom where ever possible

**Q: Will the canteen be open?**

- The canteen will continue to be shut. Learners will continue to eat their meals in their classrooms. Breakfast will consist of breakfast bars and fruit. Lunch will consist of a hot or cold deli bag.

**Q: Can staff and learners wear face masks?**

- Staff and learners are able to wear face masks. However, the Government are currently not recommending this. (apart from if a school is in area that is in lockdown) Staff will wear full protective clothing if a child is ill or requires first aid.

**Q: What will happen if a child is ill in school?**

- A learner will be given medical attention. If they are displaying a high temperature and cough we will ring the parent/carer to collect them. The learner will then wait in the meeting room until they are collected. Once the child has left the room will be cleaned using specialist equipment.

**Q: How will my child be transported to school?**

- Where possible it would be helpful if you could continue to transport your child to school. You will be able to claim back any costs incurred through the Specialist Transport Team.
- The local authority has informed us that your child will be transported to school in the same taxi as they were prior to Lockdown.

**Q: What advice have the school received from the Local Authority regarding transport?**

- All learners need to wash their hands before entering the taxi and immediately after exiting their taxi
- Learners are not required to wear a mask but the government are recommending children over 11 to wear one.
- All learners need to have their own supply of tissues with them each way
- Where possible learners should face forwards, not shout and allow the window to be open.

**Q What can I do to help the school keep everyone safe?**

- If your child is feeling unwell and showing any symptoms please do not send them to school.
- Talk to your child about the changes the school has made and why they need to follow the new procedures to keep themselves and everyone safe.
- Keep soft toys at home.
- If you are dropping your child off at school please let them wait in the car with you
- If you and your child walk to school please wait by the learner entrance gate adhering to the new social distancing guidelines.

## Clubs

**Q: Are we still doing the after school club on a Thursday?**

- No – this will not be going ahead
- As many families enjoyed meeting in the café and having the opportunity to chat to staff we are currently considering using Zoom

## Curriculum

**Q: What will the first week back look like in September?**

- Our overriding aim is for the learners to settle back into school. As there have been a lot of changes, for example, learners will be in new classes and have to learn new routines, all learners will be class based for the first three days of term.
- Learners will follow their timetables from September 10<sup>th</sup> and specialist staff will deliver lessons
- Individual classes will practice a fire drill (there will be no alarms and only one class at a time)

**Q: My child was taking part in joint project work with other children from other schools. When will this start again?**

- We have been working closely with staff from other schools. To start with we will use Zoom to support joint working.

**Q: What will the curriculum look like for learners who are in school?**

- We have adopted the “Recovery Curriculum” framework as recommended by world leading experts (<https://www.evidenceforlearning.net/recoverycurriculum/> )
- You will be sent a final copy of your child’s timetable in the first week back

**Q: What will happen if my child has to self- isolate?**

- We will contact you and agree how you would like us to facilitate supporting your child learn

### **Behaviour and Rewards**

#### **Q: Will Team Teach still be used?**

- Team Teach is always a last resort. If all de-escalation techniques have been used and other options investigated e.g. other learners leaving the room, staff may as a last resort use physical interventions to keep a learner/ learners safe.

#### **Q: What about the reward system?**

- Please see the school Newsletter for more information. Our focus will be to recognise and praise learners when they demonstrate behaviours linked to the acronym EMPATHY

#### **Q: How will you support my child to come back into school if they are too anxious to attend?**

- We will work with you to agree a suitable transition plan back into school.

**If you have any further questions please feel free to contact members of the Senior Leadership Team via the office school e-mail address:**

[quest.office@macintyreacademies.org](mailto:quest.office@macintyreacademies.org)