

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 2nd September 2020**.

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 the first day of term learners will be directed to their new 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) is open. If you have any concerns about uniform please contact the family footing team.

Q: Can my child bring an aerosol into school?

- No, learners are not to bring aerosols as this can help spread perspiration droplets.

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 class, desks have been organised so that learners will all face the same direction, in order to minimise face-to-face interactions.

- Learners from different class bubbles 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?

- All learners have been allocated a class for September and alongside with staff this will form their bubble.
- Specialist staff will deliver lessons for some part of your child's timetable and they will maintain social distance.
- Personalised Learning lessons will take place in classrooms and will focus on the following: mental health, alert programme, (sensory integration) resilience programme and additional literacy and numeracy.
- Learners will **not be** able to mix with their friends from different bubbles.

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.

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.

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.
- Cleaners, for example, will continue to clean desks, door handles and other touch points during the day.
- In addition to the cleaners class teams will continue to clean desks, keyboards, outdoor play equipment throughout the day.
- Where specialist rooms are used we will ensure that a deep clean happens before any other class uses the room.

- 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.

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 are able to come into school to meet with senior 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.

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. 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 are currently working with different agencies and will give schools more detailed information about taxis before schools open in September.

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. (Please note that a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste is a new symptom – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal)
- 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 in September, however we will review this at the end of term.

Q: Will the Holiday Club run in the Summer Holidays?

- No- we do not have the ability to provide this at this time.
- We will also be holding 1-1 family drop in sessions during the last week of the Summer holidays, to help learners who have not been in school with their transition back. Please let the office know if you would like to be involved.
- Our Family Footings Team will continue to work with families during the holidays.

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. No 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: 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 your child’s timetable alongside a “Returning to Quest “Powerpoint during the holiday to help prepare for a return to school.

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

- We will make contact with you and agree how you would like this to be facilitated

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.

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