



Woodsetton School

Pupil Re-integration during Covid19

Parent and Carer FAQs

These FAQs should be read in conjunction with the “Woodsetton School’s Covid19 Risk Assessment” and “Covid19 Individual Pupil Risk Assessments”, “Woodsetton Charter” and all other corresponding documents.

School Re-opening	
Will school be fully open from 1 st June 2020?	No. From 1 st June 2020 the Government has asked special schools to work towards a phased return of more children and young people, informed by individual risk assessments. We are currently working with school governors and the Local Authority to complete these risk assessments. All parents and carers have been asked to complete a survey to indicate if they wish for their child to be considered for a place before the summer holidays.
Is it just Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 that can attend?	No. The Government has asked that special schools do not focus on specific year groups but offer provision based on the outcome of individual risk assessments and availability.
Does my child have to return to school before the summer holidays?	No. Where a parent or carer wishes for their child to remain at home, then school will support this decision. This is except where there are serious safeguarding concerns within the home. School will not be issuing fines for children who do not attend.
I am a key worker. What happens now?	School has remained open for a small number of children for whom their parents or carers are Covid19 key workers and where it was felt we could safely provide childcare. As the school begins to plan for the reintegration of more children, we will be completing individual risk assessments for all children where parents would like their child to attend, including key worker children. Any provision offered will be based on the outcome of that risk assessment.
My child or a member of our household is currently shielding (clinically extremely vulnerable). What will happen?	Government guidelines remain that anyone who is currently shielding (or has a member of their household who is currently shielding) should remain at home. School has been notified by Public Health of several pupils who are currently in this category. This will be reviewed on 30 th June 2020.
My child is in the clinically vulnerable group. What will happen?	There is no updated guidance around children returning to school who fall into this category. However, we know that adults in the clinically vulnerable (moderate risk) group are at a higher risk of severe illness from Coronavirus and have been advised to practice strict social distancing. Parents should seek medical advice for their child especially if they have asthma.

Whole School Safety Measures	
Can you guarantee my child will not come into contact with someone with Covid19 whilst at school?	No. School has written a comprehensive whole school assessment which identifies ways in which we will attempt to minimize the risk of cross-infection. However, scientific evidence released over the last couple of weeks highlights the fact that schools cannot guarantee pupil safety.
Can you guarantee social distancing within school?	No. Many of our pupils often require some element of physical support during their time at school. However, control measures are in place to reduce this where possible. The Leaders and Governors have a duty to safeguard staff and will endeavour to do this by reducing or prohibiting tasks that require two staff members to work in close proximity to each other.
Will all staff be tested for Covid19 before working in school?	No. Covid19 testing is only available to those who are displaying known symptoms. The Covid19 antibody test is not currently available to education staff.
Will staff be wearing PPE? Can my child wear a mask?	All staff will be wearing masks where social distancing cannot fully be maintained e.g. in the classroom. Full PPE will be worn for certain tasks e.g. first aid Masks only prevent the spread of infection if worn correctly. School is of the view that children should not wear masks in school.
Will visitors, including parents, be allowed in school?	Any visitors in school will be by appointment only. School will be minimising face to face contact. Parents will not be allowed in school unless by prior agreement of the Headteacher.
The family of a child who is attending school is not following Government guidelines on social distancing. What will happen?	School is not able to police the actions of families. However, where there is clear evidence that families are not following social distancing guidelines then provision will be stopped. Parents of children attending will be asked to sign the Woodsetton Charter.
My child is displaying symptoms. Can they come to school?	No. Anyone displaying the following symptoms should remain at home – new and continuous cough or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). Your child should remain at home and self-isolate for 7 days. Fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. Everyone over the age of 5 will now have access to a test if they display symptoms of Coronavirus and should get tested in this situation.
What happens if my child starts to display symptoms whilst at school?	If your child starts to display symptoms at school, then they will be taken to our isolation room by a member of staff from their bubble. They will be overseen and monitored by a first aider who will be in full PPE. Parents will be expected to collect their child immediately and should ensure that they have provided school with up to date emergency contact details. The school will provide details to parents on how to obtain a test for their child.

What will happen if a member of staff who is supporting my child starts to display symptoms?	If a member of staff who is supporting your child starts to display symptoms, then they will be directed to go home and arrange for a Covid19 test. All other members of the bubble will be sent home to self-isolate until the test result is received.
How will handwashing be managed in school?	All staff and children in school will be expected to wash their hands regularly. Staff will support children to ensure they are washing correctly – PPE will be worn during this time. Where a child refuses to wash their hands, then provision will need to be reviewed. Hand sanitizer will also be available.
My child is in the BAME group. What measures are being put in place?	It is recognised that those from the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups are at an increased risk of contracting Covid19. School believes that the measures identified in the whole school risk assessment mitigate these risks as far as is reasonably practicable within the current situation. School is unable to guarantee social distancing within the classroom and parents and carers must therefore make an informed decision as to whether they wish their child to be considered for provision.
Organisation	
Can my child still access school transport?	Yes. If your child previously accessed school transport, then this will be provided. We have not received any specific information on the safety measures that will be in place on transport.
Will my child be in their normal classroom? With staff they know? With their friends?	School will be operating four “bubble” groups using Caterpillars, Badgers, Frogs and Butterflies classrooms. Each bubble will be self-contained and will not encounter the other bubbles. We will be operating a rota system for staff who are able to work. We cannot guarantee your child will be in their usual classroom or with familiar staff.
What if my child is unhappy in their bubble and does not settle?	The staff working with your child will be provided with their “All About Me” document which describes the strategies used to support them during the classroom. Staff will do their best to help settle your child. However, your child’s emotional health and wellbeing is important, and if they become extremely upset then parents will be called to collect them. Unfortunately, children cannot move between bubbles. School will continue to review the individual risk assessment for all pupils as deemed necessary which in turn may impact on any provision offered.
Will school be operating a normal curriculum?	No. Children will be classroom based. Bubble staff will be planning activities appropriate to pupils within their bubble. Children will also utilise the outdoor area on a rota basis. Soft furnishings and resources that are difficult to clean have been removed. Displays that are not laminated have been taken down. School is unable to offer the use of specialist rooms or equipment, e.g. ICT suite and sensory room due to the risk of cross- infection. Also the library and den are unable to be used as these are currently being used to store excess furniture. There will be no offsite visits during this period. Assemblies/circle time will be in class.

What will happen at lunchtime?	School is currently unable to provide hot dinners as these are brought in from another local school. All children who attend must bring a packed lunch which will be stored in the classrooms. Children are encouraged to bring in their own water bottles / drinking cups. When this is not possible, school will provide cups, plates and cutlery which will be washed in the dishwasher after use. Children will eat their lunch in their allocated bubble classroom.
Will my child be able to use the outdoor play equipment?	It is recommended that due to the potential contact transmission of the virus that play equipment is not used at present.
Will my child need to wear school uniform	No. School is not as children are used to, and we want them to understand this where possible. School uniform is not required but if your child would prefer to come in wearing it, then this will be ok. Children must come to school in clean clothes each day. Sun cream must be applied before school and a sun hat/cap sent in.
Will my child attend school full time?	No. School will be shut one day per week to allow for cleaning and staff PPA. Where demand for places exceeds our current capacity, school will offer places to pupils at risk or those of key workers (subject to risk assessment) in the first instance. When/if more places become available, other parents will be offered a set number of days per week however we will not be able to offer parents the choice of which days their child can attend.
What will happen at the start and end of the day?	All pupils will enter school via the playground entrance at the front of the school. Children will be greeted by a member of SLT and escorted to their bubble classroom by their bubble staff. This will be via the external classroom door. Each bubble will be given an arrival and departure time – this may be different to usual school hours to ensure there are only a few number of pupils arriving and departing at any one time. At home time, your child will be brought out of school via the playground gate and handed to you by a member of SLT. Please ensure when waiting to come into school that you maintain social distancing and keep to the one way system.
Will home to school diaries still be used? Can I speak to the staff in my child's bubble at the end of the day?	No. School diaries will not be used during this period. Parents are asked to communicate any messages or questions using telephone or email. Staff will not be able to have discussions at the end of the day. This is for the following reasons: a) to ensure the staggered drop off and pick up times are effective and completed in a timely manner; b) to maintain social distancing requirements; and c) staff will be engaged in cleaning tasks after the children have left.
Will my child have first aid administered if needed?	Yes. There will always be a named first aider on rota. Full PPE will be worn by staff when carrying out first aid.

Pupil Risk Assessment	
Why does my child need a risk assessment before returning?	School leaders have a duty, underpinned by legislation, to safeguard the school community including the staff who are employed. School is not currently able to operate in the way that we are used to. The whole school risk assessment places limitations on the provision we can provide. Government guidance states that where a child's needs cannot be met as safely as they would in the home, then schools should risk assess what they offer.
Who will complete the individual pupil risk assessments?	Class teachers and Senior Leaders will complete the individual pupil risk assessments. Information from EHCPs, behaviour and moving and handling plans will be used, as well as knowledge of the individual. School will liaise with other agencies, e.g. health, where needed. Records of parental discussions during the lockdown period may also inform the assessment.
How will I be notified of the outcome of the risk assessment? What if I do not agree with the information included?	Parents and carers will be notified of the outcome by email or via Parent Hub when the risk assessment is complete. Parents may reply to the email via the info@woodsetton.dudley.sch.uk mailbox if they feel that the decision is incorrect. Such emails will be reviewed by the Headteacher and overseen by the Chair of Governors. School will not be able to discuss the contents of other pupils' risk assessments with parents or provide reasons / justification for why provision has, or has not, been provided.
My child has not been offered provision. What now?	All individual pupil risk assessments will be reviewed w.c. 29 th June 2020 or sooner when phase 2 reintegration will start. School will notify the Local Authority of any children who have not been offered provision. Your child's class teacher will continue to be available to support with home learning opportunities.
My child was previously accessing childcare as I am a key worker. The outcome of the risk assessment is that they can no longer access provision. Why is this?	During lockdown, school has been able to support a small number of Covid19 critical key workers with childcare each week. This has been run by staff who have volunteered to work in school. As we begin to open to more children, we no longer have the flexibility of utilising the whole school building for this small group of pupils and must ensure that we can safely meet the needs of all on site. In addition, staff will now be directed to work, and school leaders must ensure that they are addressing concerns raised by Unions and other agencies.
What if things change and I decide I no longer want my child to attend school?	Parents must ensure that their child attends on each day that has been allocated, unless their child is unwell. If you decide you no longer wish for your child to attend, then you must notify school by speaking to the Headteacher. Your child will only be able to return when school reopens fully.
Is school being over cautious?	If ever there was a time to be cautious, then during a worldwide pandemic would be it! Our school community matters to us and we want to ensure that we can make school as safe as possible for when children and staff return. This takes time but we hope that you understand why we are taking these precautionary measures.

Will I still have telephone contact with members of staff after 1 st June 2020 if my child is not in school?	Yes. School will continue to keep in regular contact with families if their child is not attending. This will be by telephone. Parent Hub and email.
Are all Dudley Special Schools operating in the same way?	School has worked closely with the other Dudley Special Schools during this period to address issues and to look at potential solutions. However, each school operates in their own way and will therefore make plans based on their own risk assessment, staffing capacity and school environment.
Will school be open during the 6 week summer holiday?	There are currently no plans for the school to be open during the summer holidays.
What will happen in September?	We really do not know yet. School will be planning class groups for September over the coming weeks and will notify all parents as soon as these are confirmed. Unfortunately, children cannot redo another year in their current class as we have pupils leaving and a new group joining us.
My child is due to leave school this year. Will they be able to return for their leavers' assembly at a later date?	We certainly hope so! School will continue to monitor Government guidelines over the coming months and will do our absolute best to ensure our leavers get the send off they deserve.

Last updated 8th June 2020