



Beecholme Primary School

COVID-19 School Full-re-opening March 8th 2021 FAQs

Does my child have to attend?

The Government's guidance for parents makes it clear that parents should send their child to school, if they are eligible to attend, unless self-isolating or shielding. Our school will resume our normal practice of recording and reporting on attendance in line with our policy. No one with symptoms should attend for any reason.

What will the arrangements for the start and end of the day be?

- **Start of the day**

Children and their parents are expected to try and maintain social distancing from those from other households while travelling to and from school. Government guidance states only one parent should bring or collect their children from school.

There will be a staggered start to minimise children and parents congregating around the school. It is important that pupils try to arrive punctually. Parents collecting a child should aim to avoid arriving at school early or staying late.

Only children will be allowed to enter the school building and only through the allocated entry point for each class. Children should arrive at the time allocated. Staff will be available to show the children where to go in the first few days.

- **End of the day**

Please come alone as much as possible, see above, and wait 2m apart from other people, at the time and the area outlined below.

- **Staggered start and end times**

You have already been given your staggered start and end times in the accompanying information.

Please be on time to pick your child up as they cannot wait in the School Office.

I am worried that my child is vulnerable or that a family member is, should I send them back to school?

Children and young people who are considered [extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding](#) should continue to shield and should not be expected to attend.

Clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category.

Children and young people who live in a household with someone who is [extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding](#) should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child or young person is able to understand and follow those instructions.

Children and young people who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) as defined in the [social distancing guidance](#) and including those who are pregnant, can attend. DFE May 2020

How do I know the school is going to be clean?

High-traffic areas such as toilets, and classroom surfaces will be cleaned at regular intervals throughout the day. Along with other extra sanitation products

Each classroom will have additional cleaning materials such as wipes should the adult feel a mid-session clean is necessary. Windows and doors will be opened each day. Where it is safe to do so doors will be propped open to reduce contact with door handles.

How will you ensure increased safety?

Personal hygiene

Staff give regular reminders on when and how to wash hands. Staff currently supervise and insist on handwashing at key points of the day and this will continue. Hand washing is non-negotiable when entering the classroom; before and after leaving the classroom; after using the toilet; before breaks; at the end of breaks; before lunchtime and at the end of the day. In every classroom there is a sink and hand sanitizing stations will be spread out throughout the school. If your child is sensitive to the soap, you may wish them to bring their own soap, moisturiser or hand sanitiser. Staff will remind children not to touch their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. Children will be reminded to cover their mouth and nose with a bent elbow, or use a tissue, when coughing or sneezing. If children sneeze or cough, they must wash their hands and use wipes to clean any equipment before handling again. There are posters around the school to remind pupils of expectations also.

What arrangements will be in place if a child or adult is unwell/showing symptoms of fever/cough?

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature their parents or carer will be contacted to collect them. If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. If the child needs direct personal care until they can return home, a fluid-resistant surgical face mask would be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If the child needs to go to the toilet while waiting to be collected, where possible, they use a separate toilet.

Does my child need to wear a uniform?

Yes. Children need to wear trainers on Wednesday for P.E. and on the days that their class has P.E.

How will parents be able to ask staff questions?

Parents are expected to phone and email the school office rather than visit. If your child is coming into school, please avoid discussions with staff on pick up and drop off unless it is an urgent matter. Any visit to the school must be made via an appointment. Appointments will not be made at the start and end of the day to maximise social distancing. Any urgent messages should be directed via phone or email to the school office.

How will you ensure children social distance?

Children and staff where possible, will only mix in their class 'bubble' and will stay away from other people and groups. Brief, transitory contact, such as passing in a corridor, is considered a low risk however the school will ensure movement around the school is limited.

What will the school do if children do not follow social distancing or otherwise breach hygiene or safety guidance?

Expectations of behaviour and rules will be clearly explained to children, along with reminders and highlighting models of good hygiene and attitude. Children who, despite help and reminders, cannot follow safety guidance will be sent home. We will be discussing an interim behaviour contract with the children on their return.

How will we ensure safe access to fresh air outside of the classroom whilst ensuring pupils are a safe distance at break time?

We will have staggered break times and staggered PE sessions outside. The limited equipment that will be used by individuals will be thoroughly cleaned after use. Pupils will not share equipment. Children will be encouraged to play non-contact games.

All windows and doors will be opened each day. Where it is safe to do so, doors will be propped open to reduce contact with door handles.

How will my child be fed during the day?

Children will be able to bring a packed lunch or have a hot school dinner. School dinners will be a hot meal provided. Menus are on the school website.

Will my child need to bring their own water bottle each day?

The drinking fountains will be out of use. Every child should bring their own, named, bottle of water to be kept on their desk in the classroom. At the end of each day, water bottles must be taken home, washed and refilled before returning them to school the next day.

Will staff be wearing PPE?

Staff will not normally wear PPE within the classroom, unless in Early Years, where social distancing is not possible. There may, however be exceptions, when dealing with children in a medical capacity. Staff will wear a mask or visor, when moving around the school or in communal areas.

if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.

Can my child wear a mask during the school day?

Government guidance states that children do not need to wear PPE, including the use of masks or face coverings. It also goes on to state:

Used PPE and any disposable face coverings that staff, children, young people or other learners arrive wearing should be placed in a refuse bag and can be disposed of as normal domestic waste unless the wearer has symptoms of coronavirus, in line with the [guidance on cleaning for non-healthcare settings](#).

Any homemade non-disposable face coverings that staff or children, young people or other learners are wearing when they arrive at their setting must be removed by the wearer and placed into a plastic bag that the wearer has brought with them in order to take it home. The wearer must then clean their hands.

My child is feeling anxious about coming back to school, how can I prepare him/her?

You will need to prepare your child by talking about what school was like.

Sharing social stories can be really helpful for young children and help to express the situation in a clear factual way, reducing emotional responses.

It will be important to encourage your child to talk about their experiences in 'lockdown' and that this period is now ending.

Social Stories

[Social Story older children.pdf](#)

[Social Story for younger children.pdf](#)

How do I explain social distancing to my child?

Be open and honest, using language they will understand. Explain that they are helping others by their actions. Use drawings if needed and use a positive tone. Try to make the children feel safe.

For younger children, you and your child can find out how the Gruffalo handles social distancing here:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/features/2020/april/the-gruffalo-stick-man-and-the-smartest-giant-in-town-lend-a-paw-a-stick-and-a-hand-to-help-with-the-coronavirus-effort/>.

There are some great stories and simple explanations to help:

Will children go straight back into normal lessons following the national curriculum?

No. The initial focus, for as long as we feel necessary, will be on supporting personal, social, health and emotional aspects of learning to support children's wellbeing. They have all gone through an incredible period of change and experienced loss on a number of different levels. All have had changes in routine, loss of communication etc. and some may have sadly even experienced the loss of a family member or friends. This shouldn't be ignored.

We will of course ensure that skills in English and Maths continue to be developed. Learning in school will follow the same curriculum approach that Beecholme has always provided.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school?

We will follow the Government guidance set out below.

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 10 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases, a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

Will the school take my child's temperature every day?

No, but we may use a non-invasive thermometer if we suspect a child of having symptoms.

Will we allow visitors and volunteers into school?

No. Until the situation is deemed to be safe, we would prefer to minimise additional adults coming in and out of school. (Thank you to all those who have offered help.)

Will extra-curricular clubs run?

No. These bring too many children into contact and mix the school groupings.

Will the school office be open?

Yes, but parents are expected to phone and email rather than visit. Any visit to the school must be made via an appointment. Appointments will not be made at the start and end of the day to maximise social distancing. When visiting the School Office for an appointment, parents and visitors are to use the sanitiser and should remain on the green circle in the reception area. The reception area can only accommodate one person at a time. If someone is already in the main office, parents should wait outside where it is clearly marked.

There will not be any face-to-face meetings with teachers but telephone appointments can be able to be made.

Will you continue to provide online home learning activities for children whose bubble needs to close for a period of time?

Yes. Should we need to close any bubble, we will provide home learning activities for the children.

Thank you for reading all of this information, we hope it answers many of your questions.