



Frequently Asked Questions

Information for Families of Students Accessing Onsite Learning

Which students are able to attend school during the current lockdown?

Only children of critical workers and vulnerable children can attend school during the lockdown. The only exceptions will be those who:

- have tested positive to Covid-19
- have been asked to self-isolate as they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive to Covid-19
- suspect that they have Covid-19
- are too ill to attend and so absent due to 'normal' reasons of ill health.

Guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19

Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school while this advice is in place. If you have not already confirmed your son/daughter falls into this category, you should contact the school immediately after taking advice from your child's doctor. We will make appropriate arrangements for your child to be able to continue their education at home.

What will schools have to do?

- keep pupils with Covid-19 symptoms, or with family members with symptoms, away from school
- continue to encourage frequent hand-sanitising/handwashing
- promote good hygiene around the use of tissues for sneezes and coughs
- have enhanced cleaning procedures

What should I do if I suspect my child, or someone else in my household, has Covid-19?

DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL.

The DfE/PHE guidance if a pupil/staff member displays symptoms: If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow the **STAY AT HOME GUIDANCE** for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection or COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection

We have been contacted by the 'track and trace' system and advised to self-isolate. Can my child attend?

- No. You should all remain at home for the period of isolation.
- **In addition, we would request that you contact the school and share this information so we can take advice from PHE and assess the risk to other students and staff who may be affected.**



What steps are being taken at school to limit risks?

We have taken a number of steps to make sure the school is as safe as possible. In summary:

- Those who either have Covid-19 or are showing symptoms are not allowed on-site.
- There is a focus on regular and rigorous hand hygiene (washing and sanitising) and respiratory hygiene (catch it, bin it, kill it).
- There is enhanced cleaning through the day and daily 'deep cleans' of the school.
- As far as possible students will be organised in year team groups with as little mixing as possible.
- Strict seating plans are used for each class to ensure that anyone who comes in close contact with a student or teacher who does test positive can be identified and contacted as soon as possible.

Staff and student relationships

- One of Plymstock School's greatest strengths is the relationships between adults & students and adults & adults.
- This is a fundamental part of teaching and our staff welcome all children into our school; it is different but, most importantly, safe.
- The layout of our classrooms has been altered to allow social distancing. For example, additional rooms have been re-timetabled to ensure all students can face the front.
- Our focus is on ensuring the safety and well-being of our staff and students.

How will you keep my child safe?

We are operating on the principle of year group bubbles and social distancing where possible. Whilst we cannot guarantee complete separation of year groups, we take all reasonable steps to avoid social mixing between year groups when they are on site and maximise the potential for social distancing; for example, the use of face coverings in corridors to allow students to move from classroom to classroom.

Students must bring their own face mask.

- Where possible, desks face forward, with students sitting 'shoulder to shoulder'.
- Handwashing / social distancing posters are displayed throughout the school.
- Handwashing / sanitising happens before entering and leaving every classroom.
- Staff encourage regular hand washing / sanitising.
- Toilets are sanitised regularly.
- Social distancing markers are clear throughout the school.
- Personal belongings (food, pens, books etc.) will not be shared. **Students must bring their own equipment.**
- Where subject-specific requirements mean resources must be shared, a separate risk assessment will be followed, e.g. students will sanitise hands before and after handling equipment and the equipment will be cleaned between groups.
- Doors are propped open to minimise touching door handles, as much as possible.
- When working in classrooms within a bubble, we use traditional seating plans with allocated seats by subject, this enables tracing should the need arise.



- One-way systems are in place, where possible, to minimise movement and social mixing as students and staff move around the school.
- Each year group has their own outdoor zone - they are not permitted to go anywhere else:
- Year Groups and Tutor rooms are organised into bubbles:
- We are operating our Galley (school canteen) to provide students with access to food with a reduced menu that can be pre-ordered.
- We do not accept visitors on site, except in emergencies.
- As far as reasonably possible, meetings are conducted remotely via MS Teams.

Student movement around the site

Following the advice from the WHO and the DfE change on the use of face coverings in English schools, we have as a Trust decided that:

All secondary age students will be expected to wear a face covering in corridors and any communal areas where social distancing outside of the year group bubble is difficult.

This additional preventative measure now gives Plymstock School the opportunity for students to move across our site between lessons and access their subject specialist teachers in their rooms, rather than remaining all day in the same classroom.

However, in order to mitigate risk and follow the DfE guidance, we also incorporate the following:

- A strictly enforced one-way system (i.e. not passing each other F2F)
- Staff supervising lesson changeover
- Teacher presence to enforce corridor behaviour (Teachers will also wear masks in corridors)
- No queuing in corridors - students will go straight into the classroom.
- Hand sanitiser on entry to classroom before and after removing masks.
- Desks are cleaned after each lesson
- Procedures for the removal and safe storage of masks on entry, they can't be just placed on the desks. Training our students on how to take a mask off, e.g. storage, avoid touching their faces, not touching their mouths.
- Monitoring of children at break and lunch by Senior Leadership Team, duty staff, members of our pastoral team and at lunch by Meal Time Assistants.
- The Galley remains closed to students, however, we operate our Galley (school canteen) to provide students with access to food with a reduced menu that can be pre-ordered. Please see information on how to order and download the App at <https://plymstockschool.org.uk/the-galley/>

Is there increased cleaning?

Yes. We have increased cleaning throughout the school day. This includes:

- Touch points, such as handrails and door handles
- Toilets
- Emptying of bins
- Desks and other surfaces



Will children be social distancing?

As far as is reasonably possible. The DfE recognises that schools cannot maintain full social distancing if all students are on site. We will take all reasonable action to minimise extended, close contact between students. For example:

- All classrooms are arranged to maximise the space between students, who are seated 'shoulder to shoulder' and facing forward.
- We run assemblies using MS Teams so that large groups of students do not need to gather in close proximity.
- As far as is reasonably possible, staff ensure that students observe distancing when queuing is unavoidable.
- All pupils are expected to wear a face covering in corridors and any communal areas where social distancing outside of the year group bubble is difficult.

First Aid procedures

These have been adapted for Covid-19 and, in the event of a non Covid-19 emergency, our team of staff will contact you and make arrangements for you to collect your child, should this eventuality occur.

Similarly, this applies if there is a need for support with any prescribed medication.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's Head of Year/Assistant Head of Year/Tutor or please email info@plymstockschool.org.uk

What will my child be learning?

Our aim is to deliver a curriculum that is as close as possible to that which we would offer if there were no Covid-19 to consider. Practical subjects have had to make some adjustments to the activities that they offer in order to be Covid-19 secure.

How should my child get to school?

Government advice is that students should, as far as possible, walk or cycle to school.

If you are planning to drop your child off by car, please be aware that there is no vehicle access for Parents and Carers.

Please be considerate to our neighbours, other road users and pedestrians if dropping your child off in Church Road and Lands Park.

Please refer to Stagecoach and Plymouth Citybus regarding their services. Please remember that face coverings are now a legal requirement on public transport.

How will you stop my child mixing with other children in other bubbles once the school day is finished?

Once students have left our site, we have no authority other than to remind them of the need for social distancing. It is vitally important that Parents and Carers communicate this message clearly to their children. Social distancing as students travel to and from school remains the responsibility of Parents and Carers.



Can parents visit the site?

Parents should not gather in groups at school gates or go on site without an appointment. We are more than happy to accommodate visitors but only by prior appointment so the correct procedures can be put in place to maintain both the necessary social distancing for adults and hygiene procedures.

For purely practical reasons, to minimise unnecessary face to face contact and, given the limited capacity of available spaces for meetings on our site, we will communicate in the first instance with parents by telephone, email or virtual platforms, such as MS Teams.

In all cases we have done everything we can to consider each situation and apply a practical way that mitigates the risk by removing the possibility for students mixing as much as we can on site.

Will my child have to wear uniform?

Yes. Students will be expected to wear normal uniform.

Government advice now states, *“Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.”*

They will also need to be responsible for having the correct equipment and ensuring that they bring the correct exercise books to each lesson.

Students will wear PE kit to school on the day this is timetabled.

Students who do not have a Plymstock School branded top, bottoms or hoody **may still wear** a plain navy or black jumper and plain navy or black tracksuit bottoms. Only **small**, unobtrusive logos are permitted.

To ensure that we are complying with safeguarding, if a student does not have a branded top or hoody, **they must also wear their school blazer** on top of their kit so that they are **clearly identifiable as a Plymstock School student**.

The following link will take you to the relevant section on the school website regarding our PE uniform expectations outside of these unprecedented times.

<https://plymstockschool.org.uk/uniform/>

Will my child be able to use outside space?

Yes, they will be able to go outside during breaks and lunch. Each year group will have their own outdoor bubble - they won't be permitted to go anywhere else:

Keeping you up to date and informed

Further specific details will continue to be released to students, Parents and Carers using our MyEd Direct Contact App, Show My Homework (SMHW), email, a dedicated page on our school website and our school website newsfeed.

What should I do if I have questions?

If you have subject-specific questions, please email your child's teacher. If your question is about your child's wellbeing, then please contact their tutor, Assistant Head of Year or Head of Year.



Heads of Year / Assistant Heads of Year

Year 7

Mrs Miranda Kirk, Head of Year 7: MKirk@plymstockschool.org.uk

Mr Phil Chivers, Assistant Head of Year 7: PChivers@plymstockschool.org.uk

Year 8

Mrs Cheryle Robb, Head of Year 8: CRobb@plymstockschool.org.uk

Ms Claire Offer, Assistant Head of Year 8: COffer@plymstockschool.org.uk

Year 9

Mr Simon Wookey, Head of Year 9: SWookey@plymstockschool.org.uk

Miss Sally Holton, Assistant Head of Year 9 kdavis@plymstockschool.org.uk

Year 10

Mr David Wyatt, Head of Year 10: DWyatt@plymstockschool.org.uk

Mr Anthony Dott, Assistant Head of Year 10: ADott@plymstockschool.org.uk

Year 11:

Mrs Sophie Harris, Head of Year 11: SHarris@plymstockschool.org.uk

Mrs Sam Smith, Assistant Head of Year 11: SSmith@plymstockschool.org.uk

Safeguarding

Safeguarding issues should be raised with our Designated Safeguarding Lead, **Leeshia Walton**,
Mobile: 07950336841, email: safeguarding@plymstockschool.org.uk

If you have specific questions with regard to your child's learning, please email:

Mrs Louise Duff, DIRECTOR OF LEARNING for Years 7, 8 & 9: LDuff@plymstockschool.org.uk

Mr Mark Taylor, DIRECTOR OF LEARNING for Years 10 & 11: MATaylor@plymstockschool.org.uk

Miss Liz Monelle, DIRECTOR OF POST-16: EMonelle@plymstockschool.org.uk