



Frequently Asked Questions – Re-opening from Monday 8 March

Reconnection, Recovery and Resilience

We are delighted that very soon we will be able to welcome back your son/daughter and all our students. We are really keen to get students back to school and enjoying face to face learning without disruption as quickly as possible while also recognising that some will feel anxious.

Please find below some answers to questions you may have with regards to the re-opening of schools from 8 March 2021

Clarification on the Department for Education (DfE) announcement

Schools coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance February 2021

Please find the link to the new guidance here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964351/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf

Communicating with Plymstock School

What should I do if I have questions?

If your question is about your child's well-being then please continue to contact their Tutor, Assistant Head of Year or Head of Year.

Communicating with Plymstock School:

You can use the following [guide](#) to help support additional enquiries for contacting staff.

If you have other questions, please email using: info@plymstockschool.org.uk and these will be directed to a member of staff to answer.

Return to Learning in the Classroom

Will all students return on Monday 8 March?

The Department of Education has instructed that all students should be offered a voluntary Lateral Flow Test (LFT) and that schools must facilitate this. For Plymstock School this is potentially 1800 people who will be required to be offered two tests a week in the first instance.

This test needs to be negative before students are allowed to return to the classroom.

Due to the number of tests which need to be carried out at the school, we will need a staggered return of all pupils to accommodate this.



This means that all pupils will be on a phased return throughout the week beginning Monday 8 March.

If my son/daughter doesn't return on Monday 8 March, what will they be expected to do until the date of their return?

Remote Education and on-site provision will continue until the date of return.

There will be further information sent towards the end of the week beginning 1 March, reminding everyone of the standards and expectations of returning to school.

Face-Masks/Coverings

When students return to schools will face masks still be required?

Yes, as in the autumn term, staff and students will continue to be expected to wear face masks in corridors and all communal areas ***"where social distancing between adults is not possible"***. In addition, students will still be required to wear a face covering when travelling on public transport.

What about in the classroom?

The new February 2021 DfE guidance makes the following statement:

"We recommend that face coverings should be worn by adults and students when moving around the premises, in corridors and communal areas and in classrooms or workshops where social distancing cannot easily be maintained, except where exemptions apply."

What is the position of Plymstock School and WestCountry Schools Trust (WeST)?

Face coverings in class are now recommended, but not mandatory, except where exemptions apply – we can strongly recommend, but cannot force pupils and staff to wear them.

Our priority remains keeping all pupils and staff as safe as possible in these challenging circumstances

Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) for Covid-19

Will testing be offered in all schools or just Plymstock School?

Yes, Covid testing will be offered in all secondary schools nationally.

Do students, parents and carers need to give consent?

Yes. A test cannot be undertaken without written consent from a parent/carer and will only be offered to those who give consent.



How is testing being undertaken?

The current plan from the government is that testing will initially be on-site and then carried out at home by parents or carers.

Students whose parents/carers give consent will be offered three Covid tests in school. This will enable the identification of asymptomatic cases; it will also help to show them how to test themselves.

Currently the government is encouraging students to be tested twice weekly at home and to report results to schools for submission to NHS track and trace.

What happens if we don't feel confident undertaking home testing?

Schools have currently been asked to continue to provide a limited number of testing opportunities for those children whose parents might not be able to carry out testing.

Where will students at Plymstock School be tested?

Plymstock School now operates an on-site clinical testing facility which has been set up in the Dance Studio for staff and students.

This is currently working with a maximum of four testing booths but we have the capacity to extend this to seven for when we are fully open again and the testing of students commences.

What is the purpose of Lateral Flow Tests?

The use of rapid lateral flow tests allow us to identify individuals with coronavirus (COVID-19) who do not have symptoms, which make up around a third of all cases.

Finding asymptomatic cases, along with other infection prevention and control measures such as social distancing, can help us manage the transmission of the virus.

How will I know when my son/daughter is being tested?

All students, parents and carers will be contacted to confirm the date and time of the first test.

Year Group	Date(s) of first LFD test	Date of year group return to school
Yr13	Thursday 4th March	Monday 8th March
Yr12	Thursday & Friday 4th/5th March	Monday 8th March
Yr11	Friday 5th March	Monday 8th March
Yr10	Monday 8th March	Tuesday 9th March
Yr9	Monday & Tuesday 8th/9th March	Wednesday 10th March
Yr8	Tuesday & Wednesday 9th/10th March	Thursday 11th March
Yr7	Wednesday 10th March	Thursday 11th March