



## Information for families for Full Re-opening in March 2021

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The government has said that from March 8 all secondary school students should return to full-time education. The DfE guidance can be read at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

The logistics of this guidance is to ensure that the site is kept clean, social distancing adhered to, face masks/coverings are worn and that students receive lessons from subject specialists. This means that this wider re-opening will be similar to the re-opening in the autumn term, with the additional recommendation that students and teaching staff wear face masks/coverings in the classroom where possible. There will be no compromise in the educational experience students receive or our care and support for their well-being.

### March 2021 – Reconnection, Recovery and Resilience

We are looking forward to all students being on-site and recognise and understand the challenges remote learning has brought for us all.

Our priorities for our students on their return are:

- to have the very best educational experience possible, in an environment that will be as familiar as possible and safe.
- their physical and emotional well-being.
- to continue to have the highest aspirations and expectations for all our children.

#### What will schools have to do?

The government has set out a **system of controls** for schools and said the following four points must happen in all schools, all the time.

- keep pupils with Covid-19 symptoms, or with family members with symptoms, away from school
- continue frequent hand-sanitising/handwashing
- continue to promote good hygiene around the use of tissues for sneezes and coughs
- continue enhanced cleaning procedures
- Minimise contact and maintain social distancing where possible
- Recommend that students and staff wear face coverings in classrooms



### **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 will be 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. All students will be notified individually of their return date.

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.

Which students can attend school?

All students. The only exceptions will be those:

- who are shielding,
- suspect that they have Covid-19
- are too ill to attend and so absent due to 'normal' reasons of ill health.

### **Should my child attend school?**

Yes. Parents/Carers will have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child(ren) attends.

Plymstock School recognises that for some children this will be a significant challenge, but dedicated school staff will work in partnership with Parents and Carers to ensure all students can return to their full-time education and provision.

### **How will you keep my child safe?**

We will continue to be operating on the principle of year group bubbles and social distancing where possible. Whilst we cannot guarantee complete separation of year groups, we will take all reasonable steps to avoid social mixing between year groups when they are on site and maximise the potential for social distancing.

- All desks will face forward, with students sitting 'shoulder to shoulder'.
- Handwashing / social distancing posters will be displayed throughout the school.
- Handwashing / sanitising will happen before entering and leaving every classroom.



- Staff will encourage regular hand washing / sanitising.
- Toilets will be 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 will be propped open to minimise touching door handles, wherever fire regulations allow us to do this.
- When working in classrooms within a zone, we will be using traditional seating plans with allocated seats by subject, this will enable tracing should the need arise.
- One-way systems will be in place, where possible, to minimise movement and social mixing as students and staff move around the school.
- Face coverings in class will now be recommended, but not mandatory, except where exemptions apply – we can strongly recommend, but cannot force pupils and staff to wear them.
- Each year group has their own outdoor zone - they won't be permitted to go anywhere else:

Year Group	Outdoor Space
Yr7	New 3G
Yr8	Old 3G
Yr9	Tennis Courts
Yr10	Cricket Pitch
Yr11	Tented Sports Hall
Yr12 & Yr13	Sixth Form Area

- Year Groups and Tutor rooms are organised into bubbles, where students are registered, returning at break and lunch to their year group areas:

Year Group	Tutor Rooms
Yr7	Humanities
Yr8	Maths, Library Classroom and TE7
Yr9	Eco Block, The Temporary Classrooms (in front of Sixth form area), TE1 and TE9
Yr10	English and TE9
Yr11	Modern Foreign Languages
Yr12 & Yr13	Science



- We are operating our Galley (school canteen) to provide students with access to food with a reduced menu that can be pre-ordered using the Fusion App from Friday afternoon, March 5.
- Separate pastoral year team bases, our pastoral base the HUB will remain closed to students from different year groups.
- Staggered start times
- 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
- Visitors are not accepted on site, except in emergencies.
- As far as reasonably possible, meetings are conducted remotely via MS Teams.

## **Student movement around the site**

Students are able 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. In order to mitigate risk we also incorporate the following:

- A strictly enforced one-way system (i.e not passing each other F2F)
- Staff supervising lesson change over
- Teacher presence to enforce corridor behaviour (Teachers will also wear masks in corridors)
- No queuing in corridors - students will go straight in to the classroom.
- Hand sanitizer on entry to classroom before and after removing masks.
- All secondary age pupils 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

## **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](mailto: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 will need to make some adjustments to the activities that they offer in order to be Covid-19 secure.

The main aim of the DfE guidance and our application is to ensure the school stays open and, if we have a confirmed case, only the students identified as being in close contact will need to self-isolate.

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

Sadly, 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.

However, like you, we recognise that in some situations this is impossible, for example, siblings who live in the same household and students travelling to school on public transport.

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.

## **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 will be 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 a legal requirement on public transport

## **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.



**Will you provide lunch for my child?**

Where possible we encourage you to send your child with a drink, snacks and a packed lunch from home.

Lunch will be provided for students who are eligible for Free School Meals.

We will be operating our Galley (school canteen) to provide students with access to food with a reduced menu that can be pre-ordered using the Fusion app from the afternoon of Friday 5 March.

This is purely a practicable step, as we are unable to carry out the necessary cleaning between each zone accessing the Galley to ensure that all students can have access to food in a timely and fair manner.

Secondly, this decision has been taken to minimise queuing and mitigate the risk of a large gathering within a confined space.

**I've received a letter from the NHS saying I should be shielding. Does my child have to attend?**

Yes, unless the letter specifically states that members of your household must also shield. **Please email [info@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:info@plymstockschool.org.uk)** if you are shielding.

**My child is unwell. Should they attend?**

No. No one, staff or students, exhibiting any symptoms: a high temperature; a new, continuous cough, a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste, should attend.

They must remain at home for the period of isolation.

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

**DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL.** Book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

**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. Please 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.

**There are health vulnerabilities in my family home. Should my child attend?**



Government advice states they are fine to attend and pose minimal risk.

**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.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Parents and Carers for your support throughout this period of time. Your patience and understanding, as well as feedback, has been very much appreciated.



## **Heads of Year / Assistant Heads of Year**

### **Year 7**

Mrs Miranda Kirk, Head of Year 7: [MKirk@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:MKirk@plymstockschool.org.uk)

Mr Phil Chivers, Assistant Head of Year 7: [PChivers@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:PChivers@plymstockschool.org.uk)

### **Year 8**

Miss Cheryl Robb, Head of Year 8: [CRobb@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:CRobb@plymstockschool.org.uk)

Ms Claire Offer, Assistant Head of Year 8: [COffer@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:COffer@plymstockschool.org.uk)

### **Year 9**

Mr Simon Wookey, Head of Year 9: [SWookey@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:SWookey@plymstockschool.org.uk)

Miss Sally Holton, Assistant Head of Year 9: [SHolton@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:SHolton@plymstockschool.org.uk)

### **Year 10**

Mr David Wyatt, Head of Year 10: [DWyatt@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:DWyatt@plymstockschool.org.uk)

Miss Kirsty Davis, Assistant Head of Year 10: [KDavis@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:KDavis@plymstockschool.org.uk)

### **Year 11:**

Mrs Sophie Harris, Head of Year 11: [SHarris@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:SHarris@plymstockschool.org.uk)

Mrs Sam Smith, Assistant Head of Year 11: [SSmith@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:SSmith@plymstockschool.org.uk)

## **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding issues should be raised with our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Wil Sprenkel,  
**Mobile: 07950336841, email: [safeguarding@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:LDuff@plymstockschool.org.uk)

Mr Mark Taylor, DIRECTOR OF LEARNING for Years 10 & 11: [MATaylor@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:MATaylor@plymstockschool.org.uk)

Miss Liz Monelle, DIRECTOR OF POST-16: [EMonelle@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:EMonelle@plymstockschool.org.uk)