

The Bishops' C of E Learning Academy

Faith to Belong, Believe, Aspire and Achieve

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Date

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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcoming children back to school in the autumn term – Government guidance

It is the government's plan that **all** children and young people, in **all year groups**, will return to school and college full time from the beginning of the autumn term.

The prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased since schools and colleges restricted their opening to most pupils in March, the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running and we understand more about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments in schools. As a result, the government has asked schools and colleges to plan for all children and young people to return from the start of the new academic year.

The government have provided a useful document for parents and carers covering the following key areas:

1. [Welcoming children and young people back to school and college](#)
2. [Children returning to nurseries, childminders and other early years providers](#)
3. [School and college attendance](#)
4. [How everyone can help make schools and colleges as safe as possible](#)
5. [Arriving and leaving school or college](#)
6. [Curriculum, exams and inspection](#)
7. [What else you need to know](#)
8. [Process in the event of outbreaks](#)

This document can be found in full on our website under the [Parent Tab](#).

The staff and I are preparing to welcome all children back in September so they can all thrive and make progress. We are preparing a detailed and robust plan taking full account of the above guidance. This plan includes the safe management of our school buildings and environment, as well as reconnecting our excellent relationships and enabling all of our students to once again enjoy learning in a safe and positive way.



I know you will understand that these detailed and wide ranging plans will take a little time to finalise and I will continue to keep you fully updated over the next week as we develop a comprehensive wider reopening plan. My view and I'm sure yours, is that schools are vital to the education and wellbeing of our children and I am very much looking forward to all the children returning to lessons in September.

I have included a summary of the key points from the guidance below.

Kind regards

Adam Richards
Headteacher

Summary of Key points

School Attendance

It is vital that children and young people return to school and college - for their educational progress, for their wellbeing, and for their wider development. **School and college attendance will again be mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year.** For parents and carers of children of compulsory school age, this means that the legal duty on you as a parent to send your child to school regularly will apply.

How everyone can help make schools as safe as possible

Each school will do their own health and safety risk assessment as part of their planning for the autumn term and the return of all pupils.

As part of this, there are certain approaches that the government has asked schools to implement which are essential to reduce health risks. Parents and carers can support this by:

- ensuring that anyone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or has someone in their household who does, does not attend school - this means if your child, or someone in your household, has symptoms you should not send them to school
- engaging with the NHS Test and Trace process so that cases can be identified and action taken - this means if your child develops symptoms, you should arrange for them to [get a test](#) and you should inform your school of the results of that test

Arriving and leaving school

Some schools may need to stagger or adjust start and finish times as this helps keep groups apart on the way to and from school, and as they arrive and leave the premises. If schools choose to do this it will not reduce the amount of time they spend teaching - but it could be that start or finish times are adjusted for your child. In such instances, schools or colleges will liaise with any school transport or other providers, as necessary.

We will update you on the staggered start and finish times for different groups next week.

Curriculum

The government has set out clear expectations on what schools are expected to teach when pupils return in September. Schools will continue to provide an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects.

Behaviour

Schools may need to update their behaviour policies to ensure they reflect any new rules or approaches that are needed from the autumn term. Please see: <https://www.the-bishops.cornwall.sch.uk/web/behaviour/277358>

Uniform

All schools to return to their usual uniform policies in the autumn term. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, or in any different way to normal due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

School food

Our school kitchen will be fully open from the start of the autumn term, and provide free school meals and universal infant free school meals as usual for those who are eligible.

School trips

In the autumn term, schools can resume educational day trips, in line with the latest public health guidance and wider guidance for schools on the actions they can take to reduce risks.

Extra-curricular activities

Schools will be permitted to run breakfast and after-school activities. Schools will need to make sure these can be delivered in line with the wider guidance on protective measures, so they may need to run things differently and adapt over time.

More information regarding Early Birds and Lounge club at The Bishops' will be published shortly.

Process in the event of outbreaks

If a school experiences an outbreak, either because they have 2 or more confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) among pupils or staff in their setting within 14 days, or they see an increase in pupil or staff absence rates due to suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19), they will need to contact their local health protection team. This team will advise if additional action is required, though the closure of the whole school will generally not be necessary.