

Returning to school – Pathfinder Schools Pledge

At Pathfinder Schools we put the safety and welfare of our pupils, staff and community at the heart of our decision making.

As our schools begin to open more widely, we pledge to do our best to:

- Provide an environment which has been risk assessed in full consultation with staff in response to the COVID-19 infection
- Ensure that all staff are fully trained in our new way of working
- Ensure that all pupils are introduced to our new environment and supported to understand the changes and follow the guidelines
- Ensure that our cleaning and hygiene procedures follow government guidance
- Adhere to the government guidance around social distancing rules in school settings as far as is reasonably possible
- Inform you immediately if your child is not following the social distancing rules and we require you to collect them from school and continue with our home learning offer
- Provide a curriculum that supports your child at this time by addressing their well-being and mental health needs
- Continue to provide a 'home learning offer' for those pupils who are not attending school
- Contact you as soon as possible if your child displays symptoms of COVID-19
- Inform you as soon as possible if a member of staff or child in your child's 'bubble' is diagnosed with symptoms of COVID-19 as this will mean the whole bubble will need to self-isolate for at least 14 days
- Continue our clear and consistent approach to rewards and sanctions for children ensuring the health and safety of our school community is our prime consideration at this time
- Continue to communicate with you through our normal routes whilst avoiding face to face and paper communication in order to limit the spread of the virus
- Update you about relevant and recent Government legislation that applies to our schools



Returning to school – Pathfinder Schools Parent Pledge

In order to support you, your child, our staff and the wider school community, we request that:

- You will inform the school immediately of any changes to parents/carer and emergency contacts details
- Let the school know if you think your child's mental health has suffered during the school closure period
- Contact the school in the normal way if you are not attending and if you no longer require a place at school
- If your child, or anyone in your household, shows symptoms of COVID-19 do not send them to school
- If your child shows symptoms of COVID19 whilst at school you collect your child from school immediately get them tested and remain socially isolated for 14 days as detailed in the DfE guidance on the next page
- If your child is in close contact with anyone else who has tested positive you ensure that they remain in isolation for 14 days
- On your journey to and from school, and when dropping your child off and picking them up, you adhere to the 2 metre social distancing rules and encourage your child/ren to do likewise
- Avoid close contact with people other than family members outside school (even if 2 households are meeting in a small group social distancing should still be maintained). This will help to protect your child, your household, school staff and the wider community
- Travel to school by foot if at all possible avoiding parking issues
- Ensure you child wears school uniform wherever possible and that clothes are regularly washed
- Avoid sending medicines to school if at all possible – if this is vital please call the school office
- Ensure only 1 person drops off each pupil and sticks to the allotted timings
- Remind your child about social distancing rules but accept they are difficult to follow and that children may not always do this successfully
- Remind your child to use good respiratory and hand hygiene
- Ensure that your child does not wear a face mask in school
- Do not visit the school, instead call or email if you need to contact us
- Ensure your child does not bring any unnecessary belongings into school except lunch boxes and water bottles, which will be placed at your child's desk. For older children please avoid sending mobiles unless absolutely necessary as we cannot guarantee their safety
- Discuss the Primary Pupil Pledge with your child to support us to keep our pupils, staff and our community safe

We know that for some children it will be harder to understand the new rules. To ensure that our school community is safe for everyone, there may be occasions where we deem your child's behaviour is unsafe. In these circumstances we will contact you and he/she will need to be taken home and will be able to continue with home learning

Department for Education Guidance

What we will do if someone becomes unwell at an educational or childcare setting?

If anyone in an education or childcare setting 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 guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

PPE will be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).

We need to ensure that we have up to date phone numbers and that you are available to pick your child up at short notice should this be necessary

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

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 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 will be expected 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 will 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.

Pathfinder Schools – Primary Pupil Pledge

We are looking forward to welcoming your child back to school. Before they return we would ask that you talk with them to help them understand the new rules and try to answer any questions they may have. We have highlighted some specific areas that are important for your child to understand – school staff will reinforce these with your children on a regular basis.

I will make sure that I keep a safe distance from others on my way to and from school.

I'll always follow the rules and listen to the staff so that I keep myself and others safe.

I know why I can't play with children from other bubbles in the school, even if they are my friends, I know this may be hard but it will keep everyone safe.

I know I need to try my very best to keep a safe distance from others and why I have to follow the rules in class and in the playground.

I'll make sure I cough and sneeze into my elbow or tissue (I know all about catch-it-bin it-kill it!)

I'll only use the equipment provided to me by school and no-one else's.

I know that it's really important to tell an adult if I feel unwell.

I will store anything I bring into school where I am asked to, I won't touch anyone else's things

I'll only enter and exit the school from the doors that I am allowed to use.

I will stand in the right place on the playground in the morning, at a safe distance from others, and go to my teacher when asked.

I'll make sure I get rid of germs on my hands – using soap and water for 20 seconds and hand sanitiser.

I know that if I find it hard to follow these rules, I may have to do my work at home and won't be able to come back into school until my behaviour can be safe.

If I feel sad or worried I'll talk to my parents or a teacher.



Your Child and Mental Health

The mental health of our pupils is extremely important, and we will be focussing on this with your children when they return to school.

NHS England has issued advice on what parents should look out for and steps that they can take to look after their child's mental health, based on advice from clinicians and first-hand experience from patients and parents.

Signs that parents should look out for include:

- You might find that your child is more upset or finding it harder to manage their emotions
- They may appear anxious or distressed
- Increasing trouble with sleeping and eating
- Appearing low in mood, withdrawn or tearful
- Reporting worried or negative thoughts about themselves or their future
- For younger children, there may be more bed wetting.

If you are worried about your child's mental health, you can help by:

- Making time to talk to your child
- Allowing your child to talk about their feelings
- Trying to understand their problems and provide reassurance that you have heard them and are there to help
- Helping your child do positive activities
- Trying to keep a routine over the next few weeks
- Looking after your own mental health.

You should contact NHS 111 online or a GP immediately if they notice any physical injuries on a child, such as deep cuts or burns.

If you do have any concerns about any mental health issues that your child has been experiencing, we ask that you make your child's school aware of this. As you will not be able to speak to your child's teacher in the usual way, you can either call the school and make an appointment to speak to the teacher, or email the school directly.

Further support ideas can be found at [MindEd](#) and [YoungMinds](#), where there is also a helpline that parents can call to discuss any worries.