

# Back to School

Information for Parents and Carers



# Should I be sending my child to school?

Yes, from the start of the autumn term it is compulsory for your child to attend school. School is essential for your child's success in education and their emotional and social development.

Schools have put in place a number of safety measures to create a system of controls aimed at protecting children, staff and families and reducing the spread of the virus.

It is important to remember that for most people who do catch COVID-19 - and especially children - the virus symptoms are mild. If you are concerned about a health risk for anyone in your family, talk through your concerns with your GP or your school.

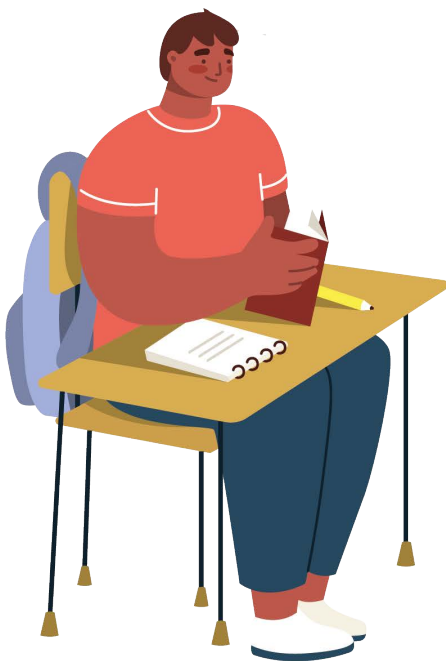


# What steps are schools taking to keep children safe?

The Council has been working closely with schools to prioritise the safety of children, staff and families.

The steps each school has taken may look slightly different (they have considered their own school environment and the needs of pupils), but they will all include some of these key controls:

1. Signage to encourage children to regularly wash their hands and follow good respiratory hygiene practice
2. Cleaning the school more often in line with guidance
3. Introducing one-way systems and markings on the floor to support distancing
4. Organising classrooms to support distancing
5. Grouping children together and limiting contact between groups of children
6. Staggering start and finish times, meal times and break times.



# What happens if someone has symptoms of COVID-19?

1. If your child or anyone in your household has symptoms **(a temperature or a new, continuous cough, or loss of/change to their sense of taste or smell)** please let your school know, and keep your child and the rest of your household at home.
2. If a child or member of staff gets these symptoms in school, they will be sent home with advice about what to do.
3. Anyone with symptoms needs to self-isolate along with all of their household and get tested as soon as possible. Find out how to get a test, and how long to isolate at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)
4. If the test is negative, and the person no longer has symptoms, the child and their household can leave self-isolation and return to school.
5. If a child or member of staff tests positive, the school will contact other parents if any other children need to be sent home to self isolate. The households of these other children do not need to isolate, unless their child also develops symptoms.



# What can we do to keep everyone safe?

## Hygiene

Frequent handwashing and respiratory hygiene are vital. Everyone should wash hands regularly for 20 seconds, with soap and running water, especially before and after school, before and after eating, and after using a tissue or the toilet.

## Home to school travel

The safest and healthiest way to travel to school is outdoors: on foot, by bike or scooter. Only one parent or carer should take your child to school. Encourage your child not to stay and chat at the gates after school. If it is necessary for your child to use public transport, safer travel behaviours should be adhered to including wearing a face covering and social distancing.

## Welcome Back!

Schools will do everything they can to keep children safe and happy.

Most children will adapt quickly and well to a different way of being in school and the school will provide support to those who need more help.



**Cllr Amer Agha, Cabinet Member for Schools, Employment and Skills said:**

“We look forward to welcoming all children back to school in September. School is the best place for them to be as many will have missed out on key aspects of their learning and development since the closure of schools in March, including interacting with other pupils and their teachers. Rest assured that your child’s school or setting has been well prepared for the reopening for all pupils. If though you still have any questions, please speak to your child’s school or setting in the first instance.”