

This document has been prepared in line with Trust risk assessment and Government Guidelines. Any parent who has concerns about their own individual circumstances should contact their child's Headteacher if concerns are not addressed here or in the local risk assessments referred to below.

**1. Can my child return to school?**

- Impact academies continue to offer places to children of key workers and to other vulnerable children
- Local plans for wider reopening to other years will be communicated by your child's Headteacher.

**2. Will I be fined if I don't send my child back to school?**

- No

**3. What does the latest scientific advice say?**

Current Government advice says

“We have been guided by scientific advice at every stage. The latest scientific advice to government is that:

- there is high scientific confidence that children of all ages have less severe symptoms than adults if they contract coronavirus (COVID-19) and there is moderately high scientific confidence that younger children are less likely to become unwell if infected with coronavirus (COVID-19)
- limiting the numbers of children going back to school and college initially then gradually increasing numbers, guided by scientific advice, reduces risk of increasing the rate of transmission
- schools and other settings can make changes to how they are organised and put measures in place to reduce risks

We have provided advice to schools and other settings on the steps they should consider taking, this includes:

- limiting the amount of contact between different groups of children (such as smaller class sizes with children and staff spread out more)
- additional protective measures, such as increased cleaning and encouraging good hand and respiratory hygiene.

Academies within Impact Education Trust have undergone a rigorous risk assessment process. Risk assessments and plans are available for all parents to review.

**4. How will you achieve social distancing with younger children?**

It is acknowledged that it is very difficult to achieve effective social distancing with younger children in schools. Each academy has its own plans that the Headteacher will share. The following precautions will be in place based on our risk assessments:

- Groups are kept as small as possible
- Outside space will be utilised where possible
- 'One way' walking systems to be considered on a school by school basis
- Hand washing facilities will be provided and students will learn how to manage a new routine of regular handwashing
- Hand sanitisers and anti-bacterial sprays will be placed in all classrooms and appropriate positions around school.

- There will be an increased frequency of cleaning around the school (with classrooms being cleaned daily). Frequently touched objects and surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected more regularly than usual
- Groups will be allocated to the same staff members in an attempt to create ‘bubbles’
- Children will be asked to stay in the same small groups and encouraged not to mix outside of their small group where possible
- Break times will be timetabled to ensure children do not mix with other classes
- Children will use separate entrances for coming into and going home from school
- Parent drop off and school collection will be staggered
- Staff and children will be asked to stay at home if they develop symptoms of coronavirus

## 5. What happens if there is a confirmed case of Coronavirus in my child’s school college or childcare setting?

Current Government guidelines say:

“When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus (COVID-19), 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 will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class/group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class/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 child or young person’s cohort or in the wider education or childcare 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 and 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.”

## 6. What arrangements are in place for the use of toilets?

Each academy will have arrangements in place to minimise the risk of infection through the use of shared facility. These will include regular cleaning routines and clear instructions to pupils about hand washing.

## 7. Will staff be wearing PPE?

Current Government Guidelines say:

### “Personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings and face masks (updated 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020)

“Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings. Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. Face coverings (or any form of medical mask unless instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way
- if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn

Education and childcare settings and providers should use their local supply chains to obtain PPE.

If education or childcare settings cannot obtain the PPE they need they should approach their local authority (LA). Local authorities should support them to access local PPE markets and available stock locally, including through coordinating the redistribution of available supplies between settings according to priority needs.

If the local authority is not able to meet the PPE needs of education and childcare providers, the LA should approach their nearest local resilience forum (LRF) which will allocate stock if it is available once the needs of other vital services locally have been met. If neither the LA or LRF is able to respond to an education or childcare setting's unmet urgent need for PPE, the setting will need to make their own judgement in line with their risk assessment as to whether it is safe to continue to operate.

Read the guidance on [safe working in education, childcare and children's social care](#) for more information about preventing and controlling infection, including the use of PPE."

### **8. Will staff and children have their temperatures taken?**

There is currently no requirement for school staff or students to have their temperatures checked. Follow government guidelines if you develop a high temperature or a new continuous cough and stay away from work for 7 days or until you have been tested and your results are negative for Coronavirus

### **9. How will you manage social distancing at dropping off and picking up times?**

Steps will be taken to avoid large numbers of children being dropped off at the same time. Start and finish times will be staggered, car parks and entrances will be clearly marked and different entrances will be used by different groups as far as possible. Local plans will be communicated by Headteacher.

### **10. Will school lunches be provided?**

The decision to provide lunches will rest with the Headteacher of your child's academy and will be dependent upon arrangements for the timings of the school day. This will be communicated locally.

### **11. Will breakfast clubs and after school clubs be open?**

Breakfast clubs and after school clubs will not be provided during the crisis. Local arrangements will be communicated for school lunch provision if applicable.

## 12. Will staff and children be tested for Coronavirus?

Current Government guidelines say:

*“Once settings open to more children and young people, staff and pupils in all settings will be eligible for testing if they become ill with coronavirus symptoms, as will members of their household. This will enable children and young people to get back to childcare or education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative.*

*A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect their classmates and staff in their setting.*

Staff can also access testing if they develop symptoms of Coronavirus.”

## 13. What happens if there is a confirmed case of Coronavirus in school?

Current Government guidelines say:

*“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.*

*Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class/group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class/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 child or young person’s cohort or in the wider education or childcare 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 and 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.”*

## 14. Can children be tested for the virus?

Government Guidelines say:

*“Children and young people and staff in all settings are eligible for testing if they become ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, as are members of their household. This will enable children and young people to get back to childcare or education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative.*

*A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect their classmates and staff in their setting.”*

## 15. How many children will be in a classroom together?

We have considered the space available and the challenges of social distancing and have decided that the maximum number of children we will have in a classroom is 15, but will likely be lower. Headteachers will communicate plans locally.

## **16. What changes will there be to the cleaning of the school?**

Each academy will have arrangements in place to ensure stringent cleaning routines are in place to fit the timings of the school day. All classrooms will have anti-bacterial cleaner and hand sanitisers in place at all times.

## **17. Will education be provided as normal for those who are attending?**

Government Guidelines on this say:

“Education settings still have the flexibility to provide support and education to children and young people attending school in the way they see fit during this time.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that schools and childcare settings must meet for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old. Early years settings should use their best endeavours to deliver the learning and development requirements as far as possible in the current circumstances.

Schools and colleges continue to be best placed to make decisions about how to support and educate their pupils during this period. This will include:

- consideration of pupils’ mental health and wellbeing
- assessment of where pupils are in their learning in order to make any necessary adjustments to their curriculum over the coming weeks
- prioritisation of high needs groups and support for those in transition years

Schools and colleges should use their best endeavours to support pupils attending as well as those remaining at home, making use of the available remote education support.

For pupils in year 10 and 12, and 16-19 learners in the first year of their course, we are asking schools and colleges to supplement remote education with some face-to-face support for these year groups from 15 June. Remote education will remain the predominant mode of education for these pupils, and schools and colleges will be able to have a quarter of the year 10 and year 12 pupils in at any one time. Schools and colleges should consider how to best use this time to support those pupils who are starting their final year of study for GCSEs, A levels and other qualifications next academic year.

## **18. Will Academies be closed during the summer holidays?**

Academies will close for the summer holidays on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July

## **19. What will happen with children due to transition this year?**

This will be communicated locally by your Headteacher.

## **20. Will school return to normal in September?**

We will be guided by government advice which is yet to be provided, however, it is likely that a phased return of children and young people will be needed. We will keep parents informed of our planning and give as much notice as possible about arrangements.

## **21. Should I keep my child at home if they have an underlying health condition or live with someone in a clinically vulnerable group?**

Current Government Guidelines say:

“Children and young people who are considered extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should continue to shield and should not be expected to attend.

Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19). A minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should keep their children at home.

Children and young people who live in a household with someone who is [extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding](#) should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child or young person is able to understand and follow those instructions. Parents must make this choice based on the plans presented by your Headteacher.

Children and young people who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) as defined in the [social distancing guidance](#) and including those who are pregnant, can attend.

## **22. Will the school have the usual opening hours?**

**Government Guidelines say:**

“It is possible that some settings will make changes to their start and finish times or introduce processes for drop-off and collection times to keep children and families safe.

Start and finish times will be clearly communicated to parents and carers alongside any other new arrangements”. Your child’s school will contact you with details of local arrangements.

## **23. How should my child travel to and from their childcare, school or college?**

Current Government Guidelines say:

“Children, young people and parents are encouraged to walk or cycle where possible and avoid public transport at peak times. You can refer to the government’s [guidance on safe travel, particularly on public transport](#). Home to school transport provided or organised by schools, trusts or local authorities varies widely. Schools, trusts and local authorities should work together and with relevant transport providers to put in place arrangements which fit the local circumstances, including the measures being put in place to reduce contact. Further guidance is available on [implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](#).”

**We are grateful for the ongoing support from all of our parents and carers. Please contact your child’s Headteacher if you have individual concerns or need any further advice and guidance.**