



Restart Guidance and Expectations

Government guidance states: "It is our plan that all pupils, in all year groups, will return to school full-time from the beginning of the Autumn term." At Stafford Manor High School we fully support this aim and believe that children need to be back at school to get the education they deserve and to support their wellbeing. Throughout the school closure period student and staff safety has been paramount and this remains the case. We hope that this information will give you confidence that we have rigorously followed the guidance and done everything that is feasibly possible to provide a safe environment for your child that minimises the risks and makes the school COVID-secure.

The following link contains the government guidance for parents on school opening from September:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

It is important to acknowledge that all of our futures will mean living with COVID-19. We will continue to follow all advice and always do absolutely everything that is reasonably practicable at school to minimise the risks. However, it is important I am honest with you and, as with any work environment, there is a possibility that at some point in the future, someone at school will have symptoms of the virus and may test positive. Should this be the case, there is very clear guidance for schools to follow. In the event of a confirmed case at school, we will be communicating with you immediately and be clear on the steps you need to take. Furthermore we must also remember that the Government guidance on September opening may change in the event of a national or local outbreak. We will be in contact with you if this is the case.

Following Public Health advice to minimise coronavirus (COVID-19) risks

Pupils, staff and other adults must not come to school if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or have had a positive test in the last 7 days. Additionally, if anyone in their household has symptoms of the virus, has tested positive or has been instructed to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, they must stay at home. In such circumstances, Government guidelines on self-isolation must be rigorously followed and please inform school immediately. Children and families are now eligible for testing if they become ill with coronavirus symptoms. Advice can be gained by contacting 111 or NHS online <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

As shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of transmission, the vast majority of children will be able to return to school. However, if your child remains under the care of a specialist health professional then please seek their advice and contact the school.

The following additional preventative measures will be implemented by the school to ensure safety:

- To promote good hand hygiene additional hand sanitiser stations have been installed in strategic locations on entry and exit points to the school and along corridors. Coronavirus is an easy virus to kill when it is on the skin. Regular and thorough hand washing will be promoted by everyone in school.
- Each classroom in use will have a hygiene station with antiseptic wipes, tissues, hand sanitiser, and a lime green lidded bin for disposal of tissues etc. This will continue to support the 'catch it, kill it, bin it' approach that is so important.
- Personal and respiratory hygiene (e.g. hand washing, catching coughs and sneezes) will be promoted at all times through the introduction of new routines, constant reminders and signage.
- Enhanced cleaning of areas used by students and staff. Additional capacity has been added to cleaning rotas to ensure all frequently touched surfaces, contact points, and toilets are cleaned throughout the day and between groups. Guidance clearly states that different groups do not need to be allocated their own toilets.
- Doors will be kept open (where possible) and rooms will have windows open to aid ventilation.
- Appropriate PPE will be worn by anyone administering first aid should the need arise.
- Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools and we will support this. However, should this guidance change, we will follow the advice as necessary.

Measures to minimise the contact between individuals to reduce the risk of transmission:

The overarching principle of the guidance is to reduce the number of contacts between children and staff. This can be achieved through keeping groups separate whilst continuing to encourage individuals to maintain a distance. In secondary schools the groups could be classes, but are likely to be the size of a year group to enable the school to deliver the full range of curriculum subjects and so each class receives specialist teaching. The latest guidance also acknowledges that maintaining a distance is not always possible in schools. Therefore, in September the following arrangements will be implemented for everyone's safety.

- The start and finish time of the school day will be 'staggered' at 5 minute intervals for each year group. All students will be at school by 9.00am and have left school by 3.15pm. The overall length of the school day will remain unchanged for each child to ensure they are receiving their full entitlement to a quality education.
- Access points to school will be alternated for each year group, to maintain separation as far as possible. Children must only arrive 5 minutes before their designated start time and then proceed directly to their 'base room'.
- We encourage any student who can walk to school to do so. Please be aware that we will only be able to have one child in the bike shelter at once and this will impact on the efficient entry and exit of students.
- A 'base room' will be allocated to each class where they will remain for the majority of their lessons through the day. Year group 'zones' will be created for Year 7, 8 & 9 in Johnson building, Year 10 in Anson building, and Year 11 in Wedgewood building. Teachers will then move between rooms to deliver lessons. Year 10 and 11 students are allowed to move between classes during the day to ensure they receive specialist teaching in their GCSE subjects. Year 12 and 13 students will allocated specific rooms for their lessons.
- Specialist teaching rooms (e.g. Science laboratory, Art room, DT workshop, Performing Arts area, ICT suite) will be kept available and GCSE classes will have priority access to these areas. Should these specialist rooms be available for Key Stage 3 students they will be provided access.
- Tutor sessions will be replaced with a 'check-in' led by the teacher of the first period on the timetable. Students will still be allocated a form tutor for future events and when we are able to reinstate tutor time.
- The movement of teachers and interactions between groups will be minimised further by introducing 'double lessons'. Wherever possible these will be punctuated by a break or lunch but this cannot be guaranteed.
- Break and lunch times will be staggered so that only half the school is on break or lunch at any one time. Outdoor zones will be created for different year groups with designated toilets. Should the weather be inclement, indoor zones will be made available for each year group.
- Unfortunately, Breakfast Club will be unable to run in its existing format due to the need to keep groups separate. We are currently considering how we can provide an alternative for the new term.
- Our canteen will reopen for the start of the new term. We are in discussions with Chartwells, our catering providers, regarding how we can provide meals for students in September.
- Students must wear their full school uniform in the new term. A plain black 'v neck' jumper may be a worthwhile addition under the blazer as windows and doors will be kept open to aid ventilation. On a day when students have PE, they must come to school in their PE kit and wear it all day.
- Every room will have a seating plan to ensure consistency in where an individual sits. Due to the size of rooms, children will be sat next to each other but desks will be forward facing. If this is not possible due to fixed furniture, the distance between individuals will be maximised.
- Students must be 'self-contained' and bring all equipment with them including their Super 7. It would be really helpful if they could also bring coloured pencils, highlighter, and a calculator. School will be providing 'resource bases' in rooms for the use by the class. Students would also benefit from having a full water bottle and tissues.

We can do everything within our power to ensure the school environment is as safe as possible for all, but clearly we also rely on everyone taking responsibility for their own actions and following all the advice and guidance.

We hope that this information reassures you about your child returning to school in the new term. We fully understand that some students, parents and carers may still have concerns and anxieties about returning to school. This could be for a variety of reasons and we strongly encourage you to contact us at school if this is the case. Thank you for taking the time to read this guidance.