



Full re-opening of Durham Johnston Comprehensive School – September 2020

Safety measures to reduce risk of coronavirus transmission based on government advice

Children must not attend school if they, or anyone in their household, have any symptoms or have tested positive in the last 10 days.

Attendance

- All pupils/students are now expected to attend full-time. Children who are shielding or who live with someone who is shielding, are now able to return to school.
- Some pupils/students who remain under the care of a health care professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school in September. If, on the advice of those professionals, a child remains unable to attend school they will have access to remote education.
- Usual attendance policies and procedures will be resumed.

Safeguarding: If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact Mr N Weaver, Assistant Head.

Covid19 Symptoms

- **Children must not attend school if they, or anyone in their household, have any symptoms or have tested positive in the last 10 days.**
- **If students have any of the following symptoms they must stay at home and you should contact school to let us know:**
 - Cough*
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing*
 - Fever or chills*
 - Muscle pain*
 - Sore throat*
 - New loss of taste or smell*
- **If your child is displaying Covid symptoms, please keep them at home for ten days, whilst the rest of the household self-isolates for 14 days.**
- **It is parents' responsibility to seek a test within 3-5 days of symptoms appearing.**
- **If a positive case(s) are confirmed, then the "bubble" including adults, may need to self-isolate for 14 days upon Public Health advice.**
- **If there appears to be an outbreak of the virus within school, then the bubble, and potentially the school, will likely close upon advice from Public Health and deep cleaning will follow.**
- **Do not send your child to school if they are at all unwell.**
- **All staff and families will be expected to engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.**

Home-Learning

- If a child is unable to return to school upon medical advice, they have access to remote home-school learning.
- We will create new Microsoft Teams for classes based upon the 2020-21 timetable. We have also updated the protocols for Teams.
- Home-learning will be mirrored by the work completed at school. Resources will be placed onto Teams on a weekly basis.
- Work will focus on consolidating, reinforcing and reviewing key knowledge and skills, in order to ensure that this learning is not lost.
- Work will also continue to prioritise pupil emotional wellbeing.
- We will continue to survey parents on access, use and improvements that can be made.
- As teachers will be teaching in class all day, responses to home learning queries may not be frequent. Please be patient.

Travel to and from school

- Where possible, we are asking students to walk or cycle to school.
- Students on dedicated school transport services do not mix with the general public on those journeys and tend to be consistent. This means that the advice for passengers on public transport to adopt a social distance of two metres from people outside their household or support bubble, or a 'one metre plus' approach where this is not possible, will **not** apply from the autumn term on dedicated (school) transport.
- Parents/carers of students using dedicated transport are advised to consider the use of face coverings for children over the age of 11, where appropriate, for example, if they are likely to come into very close contact with people outside of their group or who they do not normally meet.
- Where possible parent/carers are advised to transport pupils to and from school.
- If travelling by car, please allow your child to walk the last part of their journey to avoid unsafe over-crowding at the school gates.
- There is no access to the school site, at any time, either for dropping off / collecting students unless permission has been granted, by the school, on grounds of disability, illness or other exceptional circumstances.
- Unfortunately, during this period we will be unable to welcome any parents / carers into school unless by prearranged appointment. If you have any queries, please e-mail, school@durhamjohnston.org.uk.

Drop off and Pick up

- **See page 4 for detail.**
- We will not be operating a staggered start time due to the large number of students who travel to school by bus. There will be a staggered end to the day, with students leaving at 5 minute intervals. All students will have left the school site by 3.05 p.m.
- Physical/social distancing is required whilst arriving at school and upon entry.
- Staff will be at the various entrances to receive students and direct them.
- Parents who come to collect children must remain outside of the school gates and we ask that they please observe physical/social distancing.
- Pupils who are late in arriving into school must enter by the main reception door.
- Please do not congregate at the school gates for your own safety and that of others.

Uniform and Equipment

- Pupils should bring drinking water for the journey to and from school and during the school day as our usual water fountains across the site are not in operation during this period upon advice from Public Health. Drinks will be available to buy at lunch service.
- Break service is not possible during this time, given the complexities of lunch service required from September.
- Students must bring their own equipment (pens/pencils etc.), a notebook for their personal use and water. Lockers will not be available in school.
- Full school uniform is to be worn each day. There is no requirement for uniform to be cleaned any more than usual.
- YEAR 9, 10 & 11 students should wear PE kit to school on the day they have PE and bring spare shoes i.e. school shoes/another pair of trainers (to avoid mud from the field being carried into school after PE).
- YEAR 7 & 8 should bring PE kit to school on the day they have PE but should wear normal school uniform that day.
- Some staff may choose to wear face visors / masks/coverings and we ask that parents / carers prepare their child for this.
- Please ensure that all long hair is tied up as usual, plaits or "buns" are particularly suitable to reduce risk of viral transmission.
- The school refrains from taking a position of authority on the issue of masks and face coverings for students; this will be left to personal choice for all staff, students and visitors. Students are instructed not to touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing them and dispose of temporary face coverings in a lidded bin or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag that is to be placed in their school bag so that they can re wear it to travel home.

First Aid

- Each year group bubble will have first aiders they can call upon.
- If students feel unwell, they must let their teacher know; the teacher will follow the appropriate protocols to isolate the student in order to reduce risk to others.
- A room will be designated and equipped to support any member of the school community falling ill.
- **Students falling ill during the school day will need to be collected by a parent / carer immediately. Please ensure we have your correct contact details at all times.**

Bubbles:

- School will be divided into a number of year based "Bubble Groups".
- The bubble structure will help to reduce the number of people that students and staff have contact with each day.
- Each bubble will have their own entrance and exit (external doors) and hand-washing / hand sanitising and toilet facilities.

Social/physical distancing - within the classroom

- **Students must remain at a 2 metre distance from staff within all areas of school.**
- Students will be allocated their own table and chair within each classroom and all tables and desks will face forward with students sitting side by side.
- Students will not share their own frequently used equipment or resources with other students/staff. Students will only move from their table when asked by staff.
- "Lining -up" routines, will continue to be carefully managed to allow for good hygiene practices to be maintained.
- Students will remain in their allocated classroom for the day, only leaving for breaks and physical activity, as far as reasonably practicable. There will be some exceptions to this where students need to attend, for example, music lessons or counselling sessions.
- Whole year group activities, such as assemblies and presentations, can take place due to the size of James Hall which allows for effective social distancing.

Use of toilets

- Each year group bubble will use assigned toilets.
- Students will wash hands before and after using the toilet and use social distancing when waiting to use the toilet.

The school has more than 50+ members and staff and to comply with the current Guidance for full opening: schools in the Autumn Term 2020 and to ensure compliance with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), a copy of the school risk assessment ('Full School Opening September 2020 - Minimising Risk to Pupils, Staff & Visitors in connection with Coronavirus') will be placed on the school website.

Hygiene and cleanliness

- Students will wash / sanitise their hands on entry to their bubble and will be reminded to wash their hands frequently during the day.
- Tissues / disposal bags / lidded bins will be available in each classroom and student space and bins will be emptied regularly.
- Classroom touch points, toilets and doors will be cleaned regularly, throughout the day.
- Classroom doors and windows will be kept open to aid ventilation. Students should be prepared for cool spaces on occasion, particularly as we approach colder weather.
- Signage around school and in toilet facilities will convey hygiene messages.

Lunch time

- We ask that all parents / carers make use of Parent Pay to avoid handling of cash in school and by students.
- We recommend students bring packed lunches to school wherever possible. All litter and waste from packed lunches must be taken home by students.
- Lunch will be served in year group bubbles.
- Healthy "grab and go" options and a hot meal option (including vegetarian) will be served. Dietary requirements will be met, as usual.
- The lunch choice will be reduced, due to the kitchen operating restrictions.
- Sixth Form students will not be able to access the main servery or leave school to buy food from local suppliers. This is because we are required to reduce student circulation in the community as far as possible. Sixth Form students will have access to Café 6 and seating. They will also be able to access the Atrium Café (take-away) but will need to wear a face mask or suitable face covering to do so, as for any commercial take-away café in the community.
- The dining facilities will be continuously supervised by staff, some of whom may wear visors and / or masks for this duty, where social distancing of less than 1m or face to face contact exceeding 15 mins may occur. Staff may wear disposable gloves and aprons.

Outdoor areas

- Students will access regular time outdoors, with their bubble group. This is good for their physical and mental wellbeing at this time. There will be timetabled outdoor sessions at break, lunch and during PE lessons. When outdoors, students will mix with students from their own year group bubble, maintaining appropriate physical/social distancing and will be required to wash / sanitise their hands upon returning to the building.

NHS Test and Trace

- Staff and parents/carers will need to be ready and willing to book a test if they are displaying symptoms.
- Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self isolate if they develop them in school.
- All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit.
- Staff and parents / carers must be ready and willing to provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test & Trace and self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).
- Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can, and should, get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119, for those without access to the internet.
- Essential workers, which includes anyone involved in education or childcare, have priority access to testing.
- The government will ensure that it is as easy as possible to get a test through a wide range of routes that are locally accessible, fast and convenient.
- **Parents and staff MUST inform the school immediately of the results of a test.**
- **If someone tests negative**, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
- **If someone tests positive**, they should follow the 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10 day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

BAME Pupils (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Students)

Evidence from the Office for National Statistics shows a greater impact of Covid-19 on certain vulnerable groups, including those who are members of BAME communities. The DfE recognise this in their recently published overview of scientific advice.

The DfE scientific overview further states that "schools should be especially sensitive to the needs and worries" of members of those communities. All families have been advised that they should consider whether or not to access provision based upon their unique personal circumstances.

IMPORTANT - Staggered start of term arrangements

Given the very large numbers attending school the start of term in September has been staggered to enable each year group bubble's "first day back" to be safely managed and enable each year group bubble to become familiar with the routines from September 2020.

- ◆ Monday August 31st – Bank Holiday
- ◆ Tuesday 1st September – Staff Training Day
- ◆ Wednesday 2nd September – Staff Training Day
- ◆ Thursday 3rd September—Y7 and Y12 i.e. students who are joining our Sixth Form from other schools
- ◆ Friday 4th September –Y7 and Years 11, 12 and 13.
- ◆ Monday 7th September—All pupils in school, with Years 8, 9 and 10 retuning on this day.

Year Group Bubble Arrival Time

All students will enter by the main gate. Students will be able to access the school site from 8.00 a.m. onwards, but will not be allowed access to the building until 8.20 a.m. They will taken into school from their designated areas into the protective bubbles that they will work in throughout the day.

YR 7 & 8 - To go to the Year 7 and 8 yard.

YR 9 - To go to the Tennis courts

YR 10 & 11 - To go the Year 10 and 11 yard.

YR 12 & 13 - To go straight to the 6th Form area

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