

Eastwood HS (Covid 19 FAQs)

Guidelines for Pupils Returning to School

Partial Re-opening February 22nd 2021



**It is important to stress at this point that although Eastwood HS is re-opening for limited numbers of senior phase pupils on 22<sup>nd</sup> February it will not be a return to normality. All of us will need to remain vigilant and continue to manage the risks associated with Covid 19, continually reviewing our procedures with each one of us (pupils and staff) taking their own responsibilities regarding Covid 19 seriously.**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**1) What are the arrangements for Eastwood High School re-opening on 22<sup>nd</sup> February?**

Eastwood High School will reopen for limited numbers of senior phase pupils on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. This return will be for pupils that require to complete practical work in relation to SQA assessment. The First Minister's announcement on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February means that pupils should only attend when scheduled to do so. Timetables have been posted to S4, S5 and S6 pupils. **Pupils should consult the timetable summary on the school website (also e-mailed to parents) to inform them if and when they should attend school;** S1, S2 and S3 pupils will continue to work online as will S4, S5 and S6 when not in school.

In response to this gradual return the whole school will move onto a Blended Learning timetable starting 22<sup>nd</sup> February. This means that learning will be provided in morning and afternoon sessions completed over a two week rota. Again timetable information will be posted online via School Website, Twitter and will be directly e-mailed to parents via Groupcall by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February. The school day will be divided into two learning sessions for everyone. Session one (either in school or online) from at 8.45am – 11.15am and Session two 12.15pm – 2.45pm. Pupils should attend their classes as per their blended learning timetable.

**2) What infection prevention and control (mitigation measures) will still be in place? such as enhanced cleaning, hygiene and handwashing**

There will continue to be enhanced cleaning, hygiene and handwashing arrangements provided through Facilities Management (janitors and cleaners). In the school building each work space has hand sanitizer and anti-virus wipes. Pupils will be expected to wipe down any work station they are allocated both before they take their place and as they leave (belt and braces approach). **Staff and pupils must wear masks in classrooms, corridors and public areas.** At the entrances of the school there are infection control stations. Additional soap has been provided for pupil toilets and touch points eg. Door handles and light switches, will be regularly sprayed with anti-viral cleaner. The one way system and upstairs/downstairs, operational within the school from August to December, will remain in place.

**3) What happens if a pupil displays any Covid symptoms at home or a member of their family displays symptoms at home**

If a pupil or anyone in their household displays Covid 19 symptoms the relevant person, because they will be potentially infected or a close contact, must get Covid

19 tested via the Covid 19 Testing Centres. Any pupil identified as a close contact should self-isolate, seek a Testing Centre Test and not attend school until they have a negative test result/completed a self-isolation period.

Lateral Flow Covid 19 test kits have been made available for all senior phase pupils and staff via the school as a measure to mitigate against the wider community spread of the virus. If a positive test is recorded from these tests by a pupil they should self-isolate immediately and follow the instructions provided with the kit. If any pupil is identified as a close contact they should self-isolate and seek a test from a Testing Centre. **It is vitally important that any pupil displaying any Covid 19 symptoms is not sent to school and that the procedure above is followed. In addition parents must inform the school immediately if any pupil is displaying Covid 19 symptoms at home and if they have received a positive result from a test.**

**4) What happens if a pupil or member of staff becomes ill with Covid19 symptoms when in school?**

Procedures in relation to this have not changed since before the Christmas holidays. If someone on-site becomes unwell they will be isolated and sent home with recommendation to be tested. Following this the Government's TTIS scheme will identify and trace close contacts. The school has identified 3 ventilated quarantine areas where anyone symptomatic can be isolated until they leave the building. Pupils will be moved to another location until the classroom in which the pupil or staff member became ill is thoroughly cleaned.

**5) Will pupils have to bring their own hand sanitizer and cleaning wipes?**

It remains in place that pupils and staff must not use their own hand sanitizer or cleaning wipes in school. These may conflict with the anti-viral materials being used as part of the enhanced cleaning programme around the school. However individual hand sanitizer can be carried to use on the journey to and from school if required.

**6) Will school uniform be expected when pupils are in school?**

Yes, full school uniform will be expected when pupils are in school.

**7) Will pupils be expected to wear school uniform and change for PE lessons?**

At present all PE lessons are only allowed outside. As a consequence pupils will not be asked to attend school to undertake practical work relating to national qualifications in PE from 22<sup>nd</sup> February. It is hoped that this will be possible from 15<sup>th</sup> March dependent on further advice from the Scottish Government. The school will provide further information when we have it from the Scottish Government.

**8) What about provision for school meals and pupils in receipt of free school meals?**

School meals will be provided from 22<sup>nd</sup> February for the small numbers of pupils attending the in school hub – albeit with a more limited choice on offer for everyone. There will be no lunch provision for senior phase pupils in the school building to complete SQA practical work. They must leave the school campus on

completion of their learning session ie. go home. Consequently they will not require lunch nor will the pupils coming to school for the afternoon session. Those families with children entitled to a free school meal will be catered for through the current ERC arrangements

#### **9) Limiting access to the school for parents and visitors including drop off and pick up**

Parents will still be able to drop off and pick up their children from the school car park however parents must stay in their cars. As a continuing protection parents should only enter the school building by prior arrangement for meetings with staff. Pupils being collected for medical/dental appointments should report to the school office and wait outside the main building under the covered area at the front door until their pick up arrives (Parents should alert the school office in advance of any such appointments). Every effort should be made to schedule appointments for times when a pupil is not in school to avoid further disruption to learning.

#### **10) Emergency procedures**

Emergency procedures have been amended to allow both pitches to be used as muster zones to alleviate any potential crowding.

#### **11) Ventilation**

Ventilation systems in the school have been checked and adjusted by engineers to ensure they do not automatically reduce/increase ventilation levels due to differing occupancy levels. The ventilation system in Eastwood High School has been set to bringing fresh air in from outside via the air handling unit on the roof and therefore does not recirculate air within the building. In February where possible the opening of doors and windows will be encouraged to increase natural ventilation.

#### **12) What are the arrangements that will be put in place to ensure safety on school transport?**

From 22<sup>nd</sup> February the numbers of Eastwood HS pupils being transported to school or Neilston Station by bus/ taxi will be small. ERC School Transport and SPT have been working together to ensure pupils using school transport can be transported safely from 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

**It is now a requirement that pupils on school transport (and the public transport train) socially distance at 2m and wear face masks.** It is vitally important that pupils travelling to and from school follow this Scottish Government requirement.

Onward school transport from Neilston Station to/from Uplawmoor and farms will link with the following trains on days/times it is required

Neilston to Patterson Morning Session 8.24am from Neilston, return on 11.58am

Neilston to Patterson Afternoon Session 11.58am from Neilston, return on 2.58pm

**13) What will be the arrangements for pupils from Eastwood High completing Vocational/Other Courses**

At present the school and ERC are working on strategies with the college providers to continue learning via online platforms  
Consortium planning arrangements ie. small numbers of senior pupils being able to study courses at other schools, will be able to operate for pupils requiring to complete practical work for SQA purposes.

**14) How will social distancing work when staff and pupils return?**

**The Scottish Government Guidelines now states that social distancing between young people in secondary schools has to be 2m in all locations indoors.** In addition it advises that staff 2m socially distance from pupils in class and classrooms have been set out in single desks to reflect this. Indoors face masks must be worn unless there is a pre-arranged exemption.

**15) What are the plans for assessing pupils in relation to their SQA courses**

We are currently studying the implications of the First Minister's announcement on 16<sup>th</sup> February including the phased return of S4, S5 and S6 pupils from 15<sup>th</sup> March at the earliest. The knock on of this potential return date has clear implications for the timing of any assessments the school will run. As I have said previously we cannot ask pupils to return directly from online learning into a set of crucial assessments. We are looking at the school calendar and an update will be issued to parents and pupils early next week clarifying how and when any SQA related assessments/exams will take place.

**16) Will the Hub provision for children of essential workers and those who are potentially vulnerable continue**

The hub will continue in its current format separate from the limited numbers of S4, S5 and S6 pupils returning to school to complete SQA practical work for assessment. The timing of the hub school day will however be changed slightly to tie in with the blended learning timetable. **The hub will now run from 8.45am until 2.45pm. This also links with the school transport to and from Neilston Station**

Thank you for your patience and support

*S Maxwell*

