

Guide for Going Back to School – Parents and Families

This guide has been pulled together to support families with some of the key questions for children returning to school after the summer break. The guide is not exhaustive and just provides some key pieces of information which might be helpful. More information is available in the FAQs on the Council’s website.

Theme	Advice	Further information
<p>Preparing for School</p>	<p>Uniform All pupils will be expected to wear their school uniform as normal. PE days will be confirmed week beginning 17th August. On PE days, pupils should wear their PE kits to school. No change of uniform will be required as they will wear their PE kits all day.</p> <p>School Bags and Equipment Pupils should bring school bags, lunch boxes and pencil cases as normal, however, must avoid bringing in unnecessary items, for example, toys. Pupils should use their own materials and avoid sharing this with other pupils.</p> <p>Face Coverings Pupils won’t be required to wear face coverings in school.</p>	<p>There are no additional requirements for extra cleaning of school uniforms or blazers so pupils will be expected to wear their school uniform as normal. If you will have difficulty with this then you should contact the school in the first instance for more information.</p> <p>Pupils should, as far as possible, use their own materials and equipment to reduce any sharing amongst other children.</p> <p>All pupils will be able to wear a face covering if they wish to do so, and we appreciate that this may make some pupils feel more comfortable. If pupils wish to wear a covering, they should bring this to school with them.</p>
<p>Getting to School</p>	<p>Schools will be introducing measures to support the safe return of pupils and you should make sure you and your family are aware of these.</p> <p>Walking Pupils should walk to school where they are able to do so to help reduce the amount of traffic and congestion around each of our schools. Where parents are walking their children to school, you should drop your children and avoid spending time around the school</p>	<p>Parents are encouraged to support children in walking to and from school to reduce the pressure on busy roads around schools.</p>

	<p>wherever possible to reduce the amount of people in close proximity. Please consider parking and walking the final short distance to school where possible. Please be mindful of other road users and residents when dropping off and picking up children by car. Importantly, parents or other adults should not enter the school grounds at any point.</p> <p>Driving Schools are already very busy, so where possible, please park away from the school and walk the short distance to drop off as part of our Park and Stride approach. Park only in designated areas and do not block any other traffic when dropping off or picking up children around the school. During pickup at the end of the day, do not arrive early and spend time around the school.</p> <p>Public Transport For pupils using public transport to get to school, they will be required to adhere to the rules on travel, including the mandatory requirement to wear a face covering at all times.</p>	<p>The soft start from 8:50am-9am will operate as normal. Children should enter the school grounds without accompanying adults. At the end of the day, class teachers will escort pupils to the gate. Please do not enter the playground or arrive too early as there is limited space for adults to congregate safely around the school. Please also remember to maintain social distancing with other families.</p> <p>Transport providers will be undertaking additional cleaning of vehicles to ensure that buses are safe to use for all pupils. Privilege Passes remain temporarily suspended but we hope to be able to open the application process in the coming weeks and inform parents as close to the return of pupils to school. Pupils should not be eating or drinking on the bus at any time. Where practicable, pupils may wish to wash / sanitise their hands at home or in school before accessing the school bus.</p>
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<p>During the School Day</p>	<p>Assemblies and Gatherings Schools will be limiting big gatherings of pupils as part of the initial steps to reopen.</p> <p>Intervals Different classes may have different interval times to reduce the number of pupils in the playground at any one time and reduce the mixing of different groups of pupils.</p> <p>Instrumental Music This will return where possible for limited instruments. No brass or woodwind instruments are allowed to be played and singing should not take place. If your child currently accesses the instrumental music service, the team will be in touch with more information.</p> <p>Water Coolers Please ensure pupils bring their own filled water bottles to school in the morning. Use of water coolers will be discouraged however will be available for pupils to use and will be regularly cleaned throughout the day. Pupils should look to practice good hand hygiene before and after use of the coolers.</p>	<p>Further guidance is being prepared on this to ensure that this can continue when it is safe to do so. Lessons will likely take place remotely to reduce the number of staff coming and in and out of the school building.</p>
<p>In the Playroom/ Classroom</p>	<p>This will vary from classroom to classroom and the age of the pupils. All schools will be prioritising the safety of all pupils and different measures will be taken.</p> <p>Setup of the Playroom / Classroom Depending on the space, learning environments might have to be set up differently than usual and staff will be making sure this is done safely.</p> <p>Outdoor Learning</p>	<p>This will vary depending on the space and furniture available, however, will conform to the risk assessments which have been undertaken across every school.</p>

	<p>There will be a greater emphasis on the use of the outdoors for learning (weather and clothing permitting). Teachers will be looking at how best to use the outdoor spaces available in the school and will keep you updated on this.</p> <p>It is likely that most PE classes will take place outdoors initially where space is available.</p> <p>Groups and Classes To reduce any risks, nurseries and schools will be looking to minimise the mixing of pupils in different classes and groups where possible.</p> <p>Addressing Loss of Learning Class teachers will assess progress and plan learning taking school closures into account. We are also planning to use the additional resources from the Scottish Government to support children, young people and families to start to recoup the lost time in class.</p>	<p>There is less risk of transmission in outdoor spaces and therefore teachers will look to maximise the amount of time that children spend outside.</p> <p>Clusters of schools will devise plans to support the recovery of learning and health and wellbeing and inform parents and pupils. This may include using mobile devices to support remote learning.</p>
<p>Lunchtime</p>	<p>Free School Meals All P1-P3s and those entitled to free school meals will continue to receive these in school.</p> <p>Packed Lunches Pupils will be able to continue to bring in their own food to eat in school if they wish to do so.</p> <p>Out of School for Lunch Pupils will be able to continue to go home for lunch in line with existing arrangements for their school. Appropriate hygiene measures will require to be taken when they return to school.</p> <p><i>Breaks and lunches will be staggered until further notice.</i> Primaries P1a, P2, P4a, P5 and P6b will have playtime from 10.15-10.30. Primaries P1b, P3, P4b, P6a and P7 will have playtime from 10.40-10.55.</p>	<p>Schools may have a more limited menu than they have previously had. This is due to the need to adhere to social distancing in school kitchens and the limits on the number of catering staff who will be able to work in these spaces.</p> <p>The home delivery of food bags will end when schools return on the 12th August.</p> <p>We would actively discourage pupils from going out of school for lunch, however, if they do, there is a requirement to adhere to social distancing requirements when out of school, for example, face coverings will need to be worn in shops and other required indoor spaces.</p>

	<p>Primaries P1a, P2, P4a, P5 and P6b will have their lunch from 12:00-12.45. Primaries P1b, P3, P4b, P6a and P7 will have their lunch from 12.45-1.30.</p>	
After School	<p>School Clubs As is normal, school clubs will not be up and running for the first few weeks of the school term.</p> <p>Out of School Care The Education Department is working with out of school care providers to support provision being in place for schools going back from 12th August. Individual providers will be able to advise of availability of places for children.</p> <p>Access to the School Building There will be limited access to the school building for parents and pupils outside of school hours due to the need for enhanced cleaning to take place. If you wish to speak with your child's teacher, you should phone the school in the first instance to make an appointment.</p>	<p>Schools will look to advertise these clubs in the first few weeks back and we will aim to get these up and running as soon as possible</p> <p>Out of School care providers will be operating from some schools and community centres across the authority. Your school will be able to give you more information on local providers.</p>
Cleaning/Hygiene	<p>There will be an enhanced cleaning regime across all schools, with additional attention in particular on frequent 'touch points', for example, on door handles and hand rails.</p> <p>Hand Hygiene All staff will be encouraging greater hand hygiene amongst pupils, with pupils being expected to wash/sanitise their hands after entering the school and at regular intervals throughout the day.</p> <p>Cleaning workstations and desks Wipes will be available in classrooms to wipe down desks or workstations at the beginning and end of each lesson or class. These will also be available in specialist classrooms, for example in IT or music rooms.</p>	<p>Additional day cleaning staff will be deployed in schools to support cleaning throughout the school day. This is in addition to the regular school cleaning teams.</p> <p>Hand sanitiser will be available for pupils at entrances to the school. In most classrooms, pupils will be able to use soap and water to clean their hands. Where this isn't available, hand sanitiser will be made available.</p> <p>Appropriate cleaning materials will be available for pupils to use.</p>

<p>What if my child has COVID symptoms?</p>	<p>Out of School Any child displaying symptoms when not at school should not attend school. You should remain at home and follow the guidance on NHS Inform and Test and Protect. If your child has been in school, you should advise the school that your child is displaying symptoms and that they will be off school to follow the guidance around testing and isolation, if necessary.</p> <p>In School If your child develops symptoms when in school, you will be requested to collect them as soon as possible and take them home. You should, as above, follow the guidance on NHS Inform and Test and Protect.</p> <p>Family Members If someone in the household starts displaying symptoms, your family should self-isolate and follow the guidance on NHS Inform. You should advise the school of your child's absence and the reason for this absence.</p>	<p>It is important that schools have an accurate record of pupil sickness and the reasons for absence. This is especially important as a means of tracking any potential outbreaks and we will be working closely with the NHS to monitor this. If your child tests positive, the Health Protection Team will request information on close contacts and then advise these individuals as appropriate. Please do not speculate with individuals on whether they may have to self-isolate.</p> <p>If your child develops symptoms in school, they will be accommodated in an identified room within the school until they are collected. These rooms have been specifically set up with appropriate measures to reduce transmission. If your child is young or requires adult supervision while waiting, a member of staff in appropriate PPE will be able to sit with them until they are collected.</p>
<p>What if there is an outbreak?</p>	<p>Outbreak An outbreak of COVID is where there are 2 or more cases within a school in a 14 day period. This will be monitored closely to inform the NHS if appropriate.</p> <p>In the event of an outbreak, East Renfrewshire Council will be led by and work closely with the NHS Health Protection Team to determine the actions required to protect the health and wellbeing of all pupils and staff in the school.</p>	<p>There is a recognition that in the months ahead there will be pupils and staff absent for a range of different issues and it is important there is not speculation which may cause alarm amongst parents.</p>

	<p>Test and Protect Contact Tracers will be in touch with those deemed to have been close contacts of those who have tested positive and will provide advice on the need to self-isolate or take any additional steps, as set out in the guidance.</p> <p>School Closure In the unlikely event of a partial or whole school closure, each school has detailed contingency arrangements in place and will work with pupils to ensure that learning is able to continue out of school.</p> <p>Shielding and Vulnerable Pupils In the event of an outbreak, the school will be in touch to discuss whether any additional precautions may have to be taken to support your child. This will include revising any risk assessments or supporting out of school learning. This will be undertaken on a case by case basis and be informed by clinical staff.</p>	<p>In the event of an outbreak it is important that the guidance is followed closely. If you or your child are not contacted by a Contact Tracer through the Test and Protect scheme, there is no requirement for self-isolation.</p> <p>Information on accessing out of school learning will be made available to pupils on their return to school in August to ensure everyone is prepared in the event of any outbreak. It is important that schools have up to date emergency contact detail for every child/young person.</p> <p>Shielding will pause from 1 August 2020, with an expectation that all children who were previously shielding return to school with their peers. Any parent/carer of a child who is shielding should contact their GP if they have any specific concerns regarding their child returning to school.</p>
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