



Our Vision

Our vision at Braehead is to provide a positive and engaging learning environment which challenges and supports all children to be the best they can be.

Dear Parents/Carers,

You may have heard from your child that there have been some changes to the play and lunch arrangements at school and I wanted to take the time to explain the rationale for these changes and what we hope to achieve by implementing these changes in school.

The role of contact tracing you will imagine is very serious and complex in nature. There are four different criteria that we are asked to consider in terms of close contact in order to help Public Health ascertain who may be impacted should a positive case be confirmed in a member of our school community. These are:

- People who are within 1m and face to face with the case for any length of time
- People who are within 2m for one minute or longer without face to face contact
- People who are within 1-2m of the infected individual for any more than 15 minutes cumulatively
- People who have shared travel either in a small vehicle or have been close within a larger vehicle

As you are aware, the majority of our children travel to and from school using school transport therefore staggering lunches and separating pupils in classes or in the playground previously seemed unnecessary for us since children from all stages in the school would be sharing the school transport. However in a bid to avoid whole school closure should a member of our school community contract COVID-19 I have taken further advice.

The advice given was that pupils, except those under 5 or exempt, are wearing masks on school transport therefore the bus **may not** be seen as a bubble which would need to isolate following confirmation of a positive case. While this is not an absolute science, as every individual case is investigated thoroughly by Public Health and they may deem, depending on the circumstances that school transport should be included, it would be foolish not to consider this guidance and what it may mean for Braehead Primary in terms of keeping parts of the school open should we face any class closures.

With this in mind we have taken the necessary steps to create two class bubbles:

- P1-4
- P5-7

Where this creates some difficulty is around forest school, playtimes, lunches and the morning sessions for P4/5 classroom. We have taken the following steps to combat this:

- Created a 2m divide between the two playground zones so the P1-4 and P5-7 groups remain 2m apart during playtimes.
- Staggered lunches to ensure minimal contact between P1-4 and P5-7 children. Dining tables have also been spaced at more than 2m apart to ensure any cross over with P5-7 children finishing their lunches does not involve being in close contact to P1-4.

**Braehead Primary School
Small School, Big Ambition**

- Due to the small numbers in the P4/5 classroom the children who are either in P4 or working with the P4 group are seated more than 2m away from those children in P5 and remain seated throughout their time in the classroom.
- P1-4 will leave the school earlier than those in P5-7 to walk to the forest and will remain at the opposite side of the forest classroom which exceeds the distancing requirements for close contact status.

I appreciate that this may cause some children some disappointment with regards to friendship groups and who they would ordinarily play with should their friends be in another playground zone however protecting the health and safety of all children remains our priority and while we hope it does not happen we must be prepared for the possibility of positive cases and how we manage the school should this happen. It is hoped that by adhering to these measures we can avoid having whole school closures for up to 14 days every time a positive case is identified within the school community in the coming months. I am very aware that children play together out with school and should Public Health need to contact you they will investigate the close contacts you or your child have been in contact with. From the school's perspective we have to do all we can within the school day to ensure we have taken **all** the steps we can to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

An Advice for Parents document has been produced by NHS Scotland and can be accessed by the following link:

<https://www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk/covid-19-update/>

Thank you for your cooperation in this.



Elizabeth Steele
Head Teacher