



Information about health and safety measures in place for our return to school in August 2020

We are very excited to welcome all our children back to school over the coming days and weeks. We would like to share with our school community some of the measures we have put in place to ensure our community feel safe and confident in our practice supporting children with complex needs while observing public health guidance.

HANDWASHING AND HYGIENE

Pupils will be brought into school and walked straight to class.

- There will be a system in place for safely receiving the children into school from their transport
- Only 2 escorts or parents and 2 children will be permitted to enter the entrance space at the pupil entrance to allow for social distancing between adults
- All children will be directed or supported to wash their hands on entering their classroom
- There are hand sanitiser dispensers outside of classrooms for pupils to use before they enter.
- Once outside classrooms, pupils will hang up their bags and coats.
- We are asking for your support at this time by not sending in toys or gadgets from home unless this has been discussed with the school and it would be required to support a child from becoming overly distressed at transition from home to school.
- We would also ask that all parents whose children will be coming into school using mobility equipment, that this equipment is cleaned daily before children come to school
- Children will be asked to wash their hands after playtime, before and after lunchtime and before going home on school transport.
- Symbols and signs have been displayed all around our school, reminding children and staff about the importance of handwashing.
- Please refer visual supports on our website to support and encourage your child in understanding that we will need to wash our hands more frequently.

- Please follow this link to a short film from our Executive Director Tony McDaid, featuring advice from Gerry Donochie, Facilities Manager speaking about enhanced cleaning and catering arrangements and work around cleaning and hygiene in school premises across South Lanarkshire. <https://youtu.be/IH4jet-PXdc>
- An “Enozo” ozone spray (see film link above for details) has been provided to us for use on physiotherapy equipment and large surfaces to sanitise. This will also be used on children’s outdoor wheelchairs on arrival at school from home each morning. The ionised water in this spray presents no risk to health as it is simply water.
- Pupils should not bring toys, games, books or anything else from home unless this has been discussed with the school.
- Janitorial staff will be spot cleaning heavy touch points twice each day during the school day in addition to the enhanced after school cleaning regime from facilities staff.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- There is no requirement for pupils to socially distance, but mixing classes will be avoided and we should aim to keep children with the same class group throughout the day.
- For the present time pupils will eat their lunch and have their entral feed in classrooms. This is to adhere to the guidance outlining not gathering in large groups. We will keep this under regular review. Cleaning of tables will take place before and after lunch.
- There is a one way system for movement around the school including staircases, to increase social distancing measures. On entering school at the beginning of the day children will follow their most straight forward and safest route for getting to class. When children are settled in classes the one way system will come into effect with signs supporting understanding for this.
- Children will not be sent to the office for messages, or to other classrooms.

RESOURCES

- Class teams have been busy creating resources for children to access minimising overly sharing resources. However with children who are developing an understanding of turn-taking some sharing of resources is inevitable. We are following guidance for Early Years and Childcare settings that advises that sharing resources in small groups minimises risk of spreading infection.
- Class teams have been issued with a surface sanitiser for use if surfaces require to be spot cleaned due to cough/sneeze or spillages. Supplies are checked daily by our facilities team.
- Careful consideration has been given to the removal of unnecessary items e.g. soft toys, to decrease the number of items requiring cleaning after use.

INDIVIDUAL RISK ASSESSMENT

- We want to make the learning experience in school as enjoyable as possible but as government guidance identifies the return to school will involve many changes to our usual practice.
- We have already worked in collaboration with Senior Managers at Inclusion Services and our School Nursing Team and our Allied Health Professionals, before returning to school, to share guidance for specific safeguards for children in our setting, including the use of PPE
- Current advice from our Respiratory Physiotherapy team is that no chest physio or associated procedures are to be carried out in school at present. Parents of children usually requiring this intervention should have been advised of current procedure, by this team.
- We are aware that research points to members of our community who are from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds being more at risk of the effects of COVID 19 and we will carry out individual risk assessments where this is necessary.
- Where individual children present sensory seeking behaviour or where there is an aerosol effect from behaviours associated with sensory seeking or during interventions such as eating and drinking then staff will wear PPE in line with guidance and this will be included in the child's Additional Support Plan or Behaviour Additional Support Plan.
- Where the delivery of personal care or health care programmes means that two members of staff will not be able to maintain 2 metres physical distancing or will require time spent in close proximity to a child, PPE will be worn by staff in these incidents

RESPONSE TO CASES OF COVID

While we are working hard to ensure that children have the best learning experience possible, in the safest possible environment, we would ask at this time that no child is sent into school presenting any of the symptoms of COVID 19, or if a member of the household is presenting any of these symptoms, either of the following:

- **A new and continuous cough**
- **Fever/high temperature**
- **Loss of or change**

The whole school community is asked to be vigilant for the symptoms of COVID 19 and understand what actions should be taken if someone develops these symptoms.

Current NHS guidance on self- isolation should be followed.

This list of some of the actions we are taking to ensure pupils and staff safe return to is not exhaustive. We will share more detail as individual cases require and as we continue to share information with our school community through the coming weeks.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you require any further advice on any of the points highlighted here using the email address: office@victoriapark.s-lanark.sch.uk

REFERENCES

- Reopening Schools Guide. Scottish Government
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): physical distancing in education and childcare settings
- Core COVID-19 Information and Guidance for General (Non-Healthcare) Settings Version 4.3
- SLC Safety and Infrastructure guidance “Assessment and Planning for the safe return of children with ASN to school or nursery (including use of PPE)

August 2020