

8th March 2021 – reopening of primary schools – operational guidance summary (published 22/02/21)

- All primary school children are to return on Monday 8th March. Attendance is deemed mandatory.
- Primary school staff will continue to take two lateral flow COVID-19 tests, each week, at home.
- Primary age pupils will not be tested with lateral flow tests.
- Face coverings should be worn by staff and adult visitors in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible, outside of the classroom.
- There is no need for class sizes to be adjusted from the usual size.
- No educational visits should take place at this time.
- Clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) staff are advised not to attend the workplace.
- The advice for pupils who have been confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable is to shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice.

Page 6	Public Health advice	Review health and safety risk assessment Make any necessary changes to your control measures (p7 -)
Page 11-14	Face coverings	In primary schools, we recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and adult visitors in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas). Children in primary school do not need to wear a face covering. These measures will be in place until Easter (and then reviewed)
Page 16	How to group children	Consistent groups reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group. Assess your circumstances and try to implement 'bubbles' of an appropriate size to achieve the greatest reduction in contact and mixing. Make sure this will not affect the quality and breadth of teaching or access for support and specialist staff and therapists. Whatever the size of the group, they should be kept apart from other groups where possible. Encourage pupils to keep their distance within groups. Try to limit interaction, sharing of rooms and social spaces between groups as much as possible. Siblings may also be in different groups.
Page 17	Staff movement/mixing	All teachers and other staff can operate across different classes and year groups to facilitate the delivery of the timetable and specialist provision. Where staff need to move between groups, they should try and keep their distance from pupils and other staff as much as they can, ideally 2 metres from other adults. Try to minimise the number of interactions or changes wherever possible.
Page 18	Assemblies/gatherings	You should avoid large gatherings such as assemblies or collective worship with more than one group. When timetabling, groups should be kept apart and movement around the school kept to a minimum. While passing briefly in the corridor or playground is low risk, avoid creating busy

		corridors, entrances and exits. Consider staggered break times and lunch times. Make sure you allow time for cleaning surfaces in the dining hall between groups.
Page 19	Other considerations e.g. SEND Contractors	Specialists, therapists, clinicians and other support staff for pupils with SEND should provide interventions as usual. They, as well as supply teachers, peripatetic teachers or other temporary staff, can move between settings.
Page 24	PCR test supply	Separate to the asymptomatic testing regime, all schools were sent an initial supply of 10 PCR test kits before the start of the autumn term in 2020. You can replenish these kits when they run out by making an order through the online portal.
Page 29 -31	Lateral Flow Tests	Staff in primary schools will continue to test with LFDs twice a week at home, as per existing guidance on testing for staff in primary schools and nurseries. (Asymptomatic testing) Primary age pupils will not be tested with LFDs.
Page 32	Attendance	School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8 March. The usual rules on school attendance apply, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age) • the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct
Page 32	Self-isolation and shielding	A small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice to self-isolate because they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have symptoms or have had a positive test result • live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact • are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) The advice for pupils who have been confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable is to shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice. They are advised not to attend school while shielding advice applies nationally. You are required to provide remote education to pupils who are unable to attend school
Page 36	Staff who are clinically extremely vulnerable	CEV staff are advised not to attend the workplace. You should continue to pay CEV staff on their usual terms.
Page 37	Staff who are clinically vulnerable	CV staff can continue to attend school.
Page 37	Pregnant staff	You will need to follow the specific guidance for pregnant employees because pregnant women are considered CV.
Page 40	Supply and temporary staff	You can continue to use supply teachers and staff. Supply staff and other temporary or peripatetic staff can move between schools.
Page 45	School meals	We expect kitchens to be fully open and normal legal requirements will apply to the provision of food for pupils, including ensuring food meets the standards for school food in England. This includes for those eligible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • benefits-related free school meals

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • universal infant free school meals
Page 45 - 48	Remote education	Attendance will be mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age from 8 March. Schools affected by the Remote Education Temporary Continuity Direction are still required to provide remote education to pupils covered by the direction where their attendance would be contrary to government guidance or legislation around coronavirus (COVID-19). All such pupils not physically unwell should have access to remote education as soon as reasonably practicable, which may be the next school day.
Page 50	Educational visits	We advise against all educational visits at this time. This advice will be kept under review.
Page 50	School uniform	We would encourage all schools to maintain their usual uniform policies. Increased ventilation may make school buildings cooler than usual over the winter months. Consider allowing pupils to wear additional items of clothing in addition to the school's current uniform.
Page 51	Wraparound provision and extra-curricular activity	From 8 March, you should work to resume all your before and after-school educational activities and wraparound childcare for your pupils, where this provision is necessary to support parents to work, attend education and access medical care, and is as part of pupil's wider education and training.
Page 52 -	Curriculum	<p>You should ensure that all pupils – particularly disadvantaged, SEND and vulnerable pupils – are given the support needed to make good progress.</p> <p>The key principles that underpin our advice on curriculum planning are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education is not optional. • The curriculum remains broad and ambitious.
Page 54	Relationships, sex and health education	<p>You are also required by law to publish a Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) policy and to consult parents on this. You must engage with parents on the school's RSE policy. You can do this online and do not necessarily need to do so in person.</p> <p>You may choose to focus this year's RSHE teaching on the immediate needs of your pupils, such as health education, introducing a more comprehensive RSHE programme in September 2021.</p>
Page 58	Physical activity in schools	<p>You have the flexibility to decide how physical education, sport and physical activity will be provided while following the measures in your system of controls.</p> <p>For sport provision, outdoor sports should be prioritised where possible, and large indoor spaces used where it is not, maximising natural ventilation flows</p>
Page 59	EHCps	<p>You should, along with the local authority and health partners (where applicable), work with families to co-produce arrangements for delivering all therapies and support that would normally be in place for children with EHC plans.</p> <p>The statutory duties and timescales remain in place for EHC needs assessments and reviews.</p>
Page 59	Behaviour, discipline and wellbeing	Your policies should set clear, reasonable and proportionate expectations of pupil behaviour.

Page 60	Disciplinary actions	The disciplinary powers that you normally have, including suspension and expulsion ² , remain in place.
Page 63	Safeguarding	Schools must continue to have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance keeping children safe in education. You should consider revising your child protection policy to reflect the return of more pupils.
Page 63	Elective Home Education	You may find it helpful to direct parents to the advice on understanding what EHE is. Schools are not required to provide any support to parents that have withdrawn their child for EHE.
Page 64	Inspection	Routine, graded Ofsted inspections remain suspended for the spring term. It is intended that these inspections will resume in the summer term. We are continuing to keep the inspection arrangements under review.
Page 65	Primary assessment	We have cancelled the statutory Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 tests and key teacher assessments planned for summer 2021, including the Key Stage 2 tests in reading and mathematics. You should continue to use assessment during the summer term, using past test papers if you wish. This will inform teaching, enable you to give information to parents on their child's attainment in their annual report, and support transition to secondary school. We are planning for a full programme of primary assessments to take place in the 2021 to 2022 academic year.
Page 66	Contingency planning	For individuals or groups of self-isolating pupils and pupils who are shielding following government guidance related to coronavirus (COVID-19), remote education plans should be in place. You should continue to operate as normally as possible. In the event that restrictions in schools are needed to help contain the spread of the virus, you may be asked to revise your delivery models for a short period of time. To help with this, we have published a contingency framework, which has been updated and outlines how schools should operate in the event of any restrictions.