Cwrt Rawlin Primary

Return to School

September 2020

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**This document is based on Welsh Government and CCBC guidance to date (13th July 2020)**

**Returning to school - Frequently Asked Questions**

**What did the Minister announce in July 2020?**

Schools will return to full capacity, with only limited social distancing within contact ( class) groups.

At full operations, a contact group should consist of around 30 children. Some direct or indirect mixing between children in different contact groups will also be unavoidable, such as on transport, receiving specialist teaching or due to staffing constraints.

Social distancing for adults should remain in line with regulations and guidance.

Schools will be required to minimise the risk of transmission by taking other mitigating measures using the hierarchy of risk controls.

Every school should continue to be “Covid Protected” - having carried out risk assessments and mitigated them with a combination of controls such as hand and surface hygiene, one-way systems and so forth.

If early warning information shows a local incident or outbreak then nearby schools should implement appropriate restriction measures.

Each school will be provided with a supply of home testing kits.

**What is the Public Health Wales Advice?**

Employers, schools and settings must comply with health and safety law, which requires them to assess risks and put in place proportionate control measures.

Schools with their employers should thoroughly review their health and safety risk assessments in collaboration with the local authority and trade unions and draw up plans for the autumn term that address the risks identified using the system of controls.

There is a requirement that people who are unwell with symptoms of COVID-19 stay at home. There must be robust hand and respiratory hygiene including ventilation , continue increased cleaning arrangements , active engagement with Test, Trace, Protect , formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable.

How contacts are reduced between contact groups will depend on the school’s circumstances and should include:

Grouping learners together , avoiding contact between groups as much as possible, arranging classrooms with forward facing desks, recognising this may not be possible or appropriate in all schools/settings , staff maintaining distance from learners and other staff as much as possible.

Please note that government advice makes it clear that no one can guarantee social distancing can always be maintained in schools and we cannot guarantee a 100% risk free environment. The risk assessment helps us minimise the risk. These risks have to be carefully balanced with the negative health impacts of being out of school. School is also an important point of contact for public health and safeguarding services that are critical to the well-being of children and families. Considering the improved situation we now find ourselves in, the balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of children returning to school.

**What will the Health and Hygiene Procedures be?**

Hand sanitising stations are at site entrances and must be used by anyone entering the premises. All classes have a hand sanitising station for pupils to use throughout the day comprising of hand sanitizer, tissues and a designated bin for the collection of used items. Hand washing areas in classes with sinks have antibacterial soap and a supply of paper towels. Every activity will be punctuated by handwashing, using both soap and water and hand sanitizer.

Cleaning will continue within school, throughout each school day.

Bags and coats will be kept in each child’s classrooms, within lockers or on trolleys. Children will not leave their contact group or mix with children from other classes on site, where possible. Each group will have their own set of key resources and these will not be used by others unless they are cleaned between use. There will not be whole school assemblies, but this valuable part of the day will be done through virtual assemblies within their contact groups. Playtimes and lunchtimes will be at different times for each contact ( class) group throughout the day.

Junior children ( Year 3-6) are requested to bring in a small, named pencil case with equipment they will need for each day, including pencil, rollerball pen ( not biro), colouring pencils and eraser, this pencil case will then be kept in school.

All adults will maintain socially distancing, in line with the current advice. Doors and windows will continue to be kept open throughout each day.

If a pupil or staff member is unwell during the day, staff have access to masks, visors, gloves and other personal protection equipment. The person who is unwell will be safely moved to a designated room in school, the isolation room ( school library). If a child is unwell, then the parents/ carers will be contacted and asked to come immediately to school. You will be given advice about how you can arrange for your child to be tested.

We are still awaiting advice on whether we can do indoor PE/sport. At present, no child needs to bring their PE kit to school in September. However, please note, we will be doing outdoor exercise within each contact group where pupils will wear normal school uniform.

**What will be Different/Similar in September to the Summer School Return?**

* Return to school in September is compulsory.
* Any child who is unwell and /or presents with COVID symptoms will be taken to the Isolation room to await collection by a parent/carer. The school will continue to record any children who is sent home with illness.
* Contact groups can now be classes instead of small groups of 8.
* Within the first 2 weeks of September, Reception- Year 6 classes will be back to school on a full time basis.
* We move from a “Check in, Catch Up and Prepare” opportunity to aiming to secure wellbeing and learning to recover and raise standards.
* We will build on the lessons learnt to improve Distance/Blended Learning as required.
* Hwb will be used for homework etc to communicate and our digital learning platforms will be strengthened.
* Welsh Government and Public Health Wales advice will still be followed.
* Safety of all the whole school community remains at the forefront of this reopening plan.
* Enhanced cleaning and hygiene control measures remain in place.
* Following the plan – all children from Reception to Y6 will return in phased and staggered way over the first 2 weeks in September so that those pupils are back full time by 14th September 2020.
* Some pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and medical needs may need new Risk Assessments to be undertaken prior to return. Teachers will contact those families during the first week of the new term and before their return.
* Play times and lunchtimes will remain as staggered times.
* We will continue to use distinct entrances and exits to the school site. Start and end times will be staggered to minimise cross contamination of contact groups as far as is possible. This will impact on usual start/end times but all children will receive their full teaching allocation of time.
* Local Childcare providers will be reviewing their guidance and will contact parents accordingly.
* Only visitors from CCBC will visit by arrangement and follow school risk assessment and hand hygiene protocol.

**What about Catering?**

There will be no Breakfast Club provision at the start of the term, this will be reviewed by the Local Authority at the end of September. Cereal bars or fruit will be available from Catering.

We will not offer fruit tuck at this time. If you wish your child to have a mid-morning fruit snack then please provide this.

Single use cups and shared beakers are not permitted. Please supply a water bottle for your child.

Lunchtimes will take place within classrooms or outside and each child must bring a packed lunch and drink. All used wrappings will be put back into their lunchboxes to take home.

**Toilets**

Where possible, we will use a one in, one out system and the toilets will be supervised at an appropriate distance by staff. Where possible, some classes will have their own toilet to use to minimise risk. Children will be reminded to sanitise their hands before entering toilet and wash their hands after using the toilet. Toilets and touch points will be cleaned every morning and evening, as well as additional times during the day from onsite cleaners.

**What if there is a Local Lockdown? One Class/Whole school?**

Please note it is a requirement that people who are unwell with symptoms of COVID-19 stay at home and in the case of a positive test result please follow the advice from Public Health Wales, including immediately informing the school.

In the event of a positive test confirmed, as directed we will follow the procedures to start the Test, Trace and Protect (TTP) process.

We will return to home/ school distance learning procedures or blended learning, depending on the unique circumstances, for that class or the whole school. We will also be working on new strategies and ideas to enhance our existing home/school model.

**What do I need to remember for my child’s return to school?**

* **Timings are essential.** Please note the time your child will start and finish school and only come on site at those times. Please adhere to the entrances, one way and exit routes for your class.
* **Teachers will not be able to chat on the door at drop off/pick up times, as we need to ensure safety for everyone on site with prompt drop off and pick up times.** So if you have urgent questions or information to give about your child, please ring the school office to give the information or arrange a phone appointment with the teacher.
* Your child only needs to bring to school, a packed lunch, water bottle, pencil case ( Juniors) and coat.

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school in September.