

Returning to school arrangements for all students: Week beginning 8th March 2021

Revised FAQs Version issued 1st March: Minor Amendments



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am very pleased to be able to share our plans for reopening of Fairfield to all students from the week beginning 8th March and remind you of the various measures we have in place and some new ones.

From Monday 8th March, attendance at school is compulsory, except in specific circumstances where certified exemptions exist. We are however going to operate a phased return to allow safe testing of students to happen, in line with government guidance. We are encouraging students to be tested 3 times during the first two weeks of return, with a further test at home. Repeat testing will then take place at home twice per week. Testing is encouraged but not compulsory.

On **Monday March 8th and Tuesday 9th** student testing will take place in the Sports Hall, where we have consent. Testing is encouraged but optional and is run by school staff. When not being tested a student will access all lessons remotely from home, except for Key Workers and Vulnerable students who can still access in school provision.

Students who are displaying COVID symptoms should remain at home

Key Stage 4 (Year 10 +11) students will be given appointments to arrive in school for testing during Monday 8th March.

Key Stage 3 (Year 7, 8 + 9) students will be given appointments to arrive in school for testing during Tuesday 9th March.

Appointments will follow in a separate letter. Once tested students will return home.

On **Wednesday 10th March, all students return to school**, irrespective of whether they have been tested or not and lessons will take place as per our timetable.

If we are aware of a positive test result, we will notify the individuals family and make arrangements for self-isolation in line with government and NHS guidelines. Any individuals in close contact will need to self-isolate and remote learning will be provided.

All other aspects of the school will operate as they were in Term 2 except that students will now be required to wear face masks in classrooms unless exempted. For a student to be deemed exempt we expect to have communication from the parent to request this. As previously they will be issued with an exemption card to show, if asked.

We are also allowed to make reasonable adjustments to promote inclusion and to aid communication. An example of this would be to support an adult or student to communicate better, a class could be asked to remove their masks - most typically to support Deaf students, hearing impairment or visual impairment. If a student wishes to keep their mask on in these circumstances, they should be allowed to.

The wearing of face masks in class is due to be reviewed by Government during Easter.

On a general note, our reopening plans follows current government guidance and are designed to be as safe as possible for our school. The link to the government guide for parents can be found at:

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges)

Below I have included an updated Frequently Asked Questions section which I hope answers any question you may have.

I will be sharing these plans with students in a virtual whole school assembly on Friday morning.

Regards,

Nick Lewis
Principal

What does a typical school day look like now?

The same as in Term 2. The main changes to a "normal" school day are shown in green:

Arrive at School	Walking and cycling to school promoted. Use of public transport is discouraged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grounds set up with Year Zones in place
Site open to students	8.30 – 8.45 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival to hand sanitation and wellness check by staff. Students directed to Year Zone then tutor base. Arrive with own equipment and FHS uniform
Tutor bases opened by tutors First Bell 08.40 am	8.30am – 8.45am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move to tutor base • Informal activities in tutor bases to include reading and home learning support
Formal Tutor Time	08.45 am – 09.10 am	Online assemblies only
Period 1	09.10 am – 10.10 am	Students taught as per published timetable
Period 2	10.10 am – 11.10 am	Phased break dismissal via separate stairs to Year Zone
Break Warning Bell at 11.35am	11.10 am – 11.40 am	Break in Year Zones. Snacks from home only.
Period 3	11.40 am – 12.40 pm	Students taught as per published timetable
Period 4	12.40 pm – 13.40 pm	Phased dismissal for lunch via separate stairs:
Lunch (Warning Bell at 2.00pm)	13.40 pm – 14.25 pm	Lunch served in phases and eaten in zones. Packed lunch only either from home or pre - ordered in tutor time. Students encouraged to use outdoor zones when possible, except during heavy rain. Lunch detentions in Key Stage, if required
Period 5	14.25 pm – 15.25 pm	Phased dismissal: Y8 –15.05pm, Y9 -15.10pm, Y10-15.15pm, Y7-15.20pm Y11-15.25pm Staff to escort students off site
Intervention for Y11	3.25 pm	Staff available for meetings / intervention as per timetable

Is it safe?

For all planning we have followed government guidance and completed full risk assessments and equalities impact assessments. The key controls are:

- People displaying COVID 19 symptoms will not be allowed on site.
- Excellent hand and respiratory hygiene will be promoted.
- Maximising the distance between people wherever possible by grouping students together, avoiding contact between groups and rearranging classrooms
- Using NHS Test and Trace
- Ensuring good ventilation
- Frequent cleaning
- Wearing Face Coverings (unless exempt)

Will my child be expected to attend?

Yes, from March 8th full attendance at school is compulsory. We will manage absences in line with our attendance policy. The only exceptions to this will be students who are self-isolating due to COVID.

My child is seeing a medical specialist and they have said they should not return to school - is that OK?

Yes, in very exceptional cases and only with specific specialist medical advice absence from school may be authorised.

What should I do if my child cannot attend?

All absences must be notified to school with the reason given via the school's absence line. Parents will not be penalised if a student is absent due to self-isolation due to a confirmed case of COVID or where specialist medical advice has confirmed absence is required on medical grounds.

No one should attend school with COVID symptoms

It is vital that we are informed if your child or member of the family develop COVID 19 type symptoms or is asked to isolate as part of the NHS Test and Trace scheme.

What will lessons be like when the school reopens again?

We are offering our usual unique, broad and balanced "We Are Fairfield" curriculum with a full range of lessons. For all students our focus will be on getting into good learning routines quickly, learning the new systems and enjoying their lessons.

Subject teachers will spend time reviewing the work set during lockdown, supporting where difficulties arose and setting work based on the subject's curriculum maps. These can be found on our website.

<https://www.fairfield.bristol.sch.uk/page/?title=%27We+are+Fairfield%27+Curriculum&pid=508>

So, will there be any changes?

Yes. Lessons such as PE, Art and Engineering will need to be taught in different ways to take account of the latest guidance. This will mean for example that we will not be able to allow contact in sports; there will be no sharing of brushes, etc in Art; less demonstrations and practical lessons in Engineering.

Will peripatetic music instrument lessons still happen?

Yes, they will but in line with government guidance on hygiene and distancing and happen after our testing phase is complete.

Does that mean there will be staff / visitors from other schools / settings?

Supply teachers, peripatetic teachers and/or other temporary staff can still move between schools. They will ensure they minimise contact and maintain as much distance as possible from other staff. Specialists, therapists, clinicians and other support staff for pupils with SEND will provide interventions as usual. A record will be kept of all visitors and all visitors will get advice on our COVID guidance.

How will you help students catch up?

Fairfield has an excellent track record of helping students catch up with many making much better progress than in other schools nationally.

Teachers will be using class time to assess by questioning and other methods - what students know and what they need to go on to learn.

Some specific students may need additional support to catch up and we will use the start of term to identify

these students and how best to help them further.

What about student wellbeing?

Wellbeing sessions will support students with re-integration into school life. We will try and support any arising issues.

Our Pastoral team are available each day to support students' well-being further and will be operating from separate Key Stage bases to avoid groups mixing.

Have you altered your curriculum or planning to take account of other pressing changes such as #BLM, the Climate Crisis or other equality issues?

Our school improvement plan for this year is explicitly supporting change in these areas. A key school aim is to change the world, to make it a better place to live.

Our Risk Assessments and Equalities Impact Statements all take account of the increased risks for groups in our communities.

How should my child travel to school?

Please encourage your child to walk or cycle to school. Where possible, we ask that students avoid using public transport, and the earlier finish is to enable students to travel at off-peak times. If possible, please avoid dropping your child off to school by car.

What will the timings of the school day be?

Students can come on site at 8.30 am. They will then be guided to separate areas for Year. On arrival students will

need to sanitise hands and we will check that they are well and not displaying COVID symptoms.

When will students be dismissed at end the day?

We will dismiss students at the following times:

- **Year 8 - 15.05 pm**
- **Year 9 - 15.10 pm**
- **Year 10 - 15.15 pm**
- **Year 7 - 15.20 pm**
- **Year 11-15.25 pm**

This is to ensure that we do not have large groups of students leaving at the same time. Students will be escorted off site by their teachers and cannot remain in school.

Some invited Year 11 students will remain on site for intervention sessions.

By prior agreement, some invited Year 7s may also remain on site.

Details will follow for both groups.

What are the arrangements for lunch and break?

Break: At just after 11am students will have a break in separate Year Zones.

Students will be able to mix with others in their zone but not go to another Year Zone. Food / drinks will NOT be available to purchase at break time, so students should bring their own snacks from home. Water bottles are encouraged.

Lunch: from 13.15 pm, a similar system will operate. We ask that if possible, during the first few week's students bring in packed lunches. Where this is not possible, we intend to ask students to pre-order a school packed lunch in

tutor time. To start with, the choice will be between a meat or meat free packed lunch. Students who are eligible for free school meals (FSM) will be given the same choice. We will continue to take account of special dietary requirements. Once the students have collected lunch, they will go to the supervised Year Zones. We will be encouraging all students to eat outside as this further reduces risk.

What will happen during heavy rainfall?

If there is heavy rain at break or lunch, we will open zones inside the building for each Year. Please make sure students have appropriate clothing to allow them to eat outside. This includes a coat to protect from light rainfall / brief drizzle / cold weather.

What are the Year Zones and where are they?

Year Zones are a way of grouping students together. They are being used across other Excalibur Schools. It means that older students and younger students will not mix across zones at break, lunch or the start and end of school. Students are now familiar with their Zones

Will the students mix between Key Stage Zones?

Briefly, between lessons, yes. This allows us to deliver a full curriculum to students which we believe is the best for them. They will be wearing masks to reduce transmission risk in addition to all the other controls.

Will my child have to wear uniform?

Students will be expected to wear full uniform but as a temporary measure, on the days that students have PE they should wear this into school with their

normal uniform to change into after the PE lesson.

What should my child bring to school with them?

Your child should bring the regular equipment required for lessons, pens, pencils, rulers, calculator, and their books for lessons. To limit infection risk, we will not be sharing equipment.

Students should bring their own snacks from home. Water bottles are encouraged. We ask that if possible, during the first few week's students bring in packed lunches. Where this is not possible, we intend to ask students to pre-order a school packed lunch in tutor time. To start with, the choice will be between a meat or meat free packed lunch. Students who are eligible for free school meals (FSM) will be given the same choice).

Will students share equipment?

We have asked staff to avoid sharing equipment wherever possible. Where equipment is shared it should be cleaned or kept away from other groups for the appropriate amount of time.

Sometimes it can be hot weather, will there be access to water?

At lunch, we will provide a "grab and go" lunch for students that have ordered it in the morning. This will have a drink in it. Food and drinks will not be available to buy in school, but water will be available from water fountains and taps. Students can help by bringing an adequate supply of drinking water with them as there will be a limited opportunity for refills as we are trying to avoid queues.

Will my child have a sanction for not doing work over lockdown?

No. We understand that some students will not have been able to complete all the work set. As we move forward and start to establish routines there will be an expectation that students complete the work set by their teacher.

What will happen if my child is worried?

We will use our pastoral staff to pre book appointments or in emergencies respond to students experiencing anxiety when informed by class teachers. A qualified first aider is always on site.

Will socially distancing rules be followed?

We will be encouraging good social distancing for the safety of everyone in the building. It is extremely important that distances are maintained, where possible. This is particularly important in classes where the guidance says that staff should typically remain 2 metres from students. Everyone will be reminded to socially distance everywhere in the building by posters and other messaging.

The entry and exit of students from the school building will be supervised to control rates of flow.

In classrooms, desks will be spaced apart and facing the front, wherever this is possible.

What happens if someone gets Covid -19 symptoms?

Should a student, or a member of staff become unwell with Covid 19 symptoms during the day we will be following the advice from Public Health England. They will be sent home and asked to seek a COVID test. All staff and students in school who display symptoms can access a test via the NHS test booking site

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>)

What will happen if there is another spike in cases or a lockdown?

If there is a local lockdown or spike in cases of COVID we will move to offering Remote Learning.

Are you doing anything else to help prepare?

Yes, we have increased staffing above our typical levels for teachers, cover staff and cleaning staff.

Will all students need to wear face coverings in classes ?

Typically, yes. At least until the review at Easter. We can make reasonable adjustments to promote inclusion and to aid communication, so a teacher may ask students to remove masks to do this- usually to support hearing impairment or visual impairment. If a student wishes to keep their mask on in these circumstances, they should be allowed to.

Face Masks are not required if exempt and with an exemption card.

Face masks are not required during physical activities such as PE, Dance + Drama.

Face Masks are not required outdoors where risks are now considered to be much lower.

Will rooms be cleaned between use by different groups?

When students enter or leave a room they will be asked to sanitise. They will be frequently reminded to wash their hands by posters displayed and by staff.

Wipes and sanitiser will be available in each room to clean desks between classes.

The site will be deep cleaned every day after each group of students have left. We have employed additional cleaning staff to work during the day to ensure all frequently used surfaces are cleaned regularly.

The information in this letter is based on the advice and guidance available to us on 24th February 2021 and is subject to change. Where these changes are significant, we will send further updates.

I have further questions about this. Who should I contact?

Before March 8th you can contact response@fairfield.excalibur.org.uk

After that date please contact your child's tutor or reception