

Frequently Asked Questions: Parents and Carers

Updated 10.06.2020



**Alderbrook
School**
AMBITION | BRAVERY | KINDNESS

Increased provision for Years 10 and 12

In response to the survey that parents and carers completed last week, we have compiled the questions and answers below. This document should be read in conjunction with the information document.

Do Year 10 have to wear school uniform?

Yes. Year 10 will be required to wear normal school uniform. The Government advice is “there is no need for anything other than normal personal hygiene and washing of clothes following a day in an educational or childcare setting”.

Whilst usual uniform is expected, we understand the various challenges regarding obtaining new uniform at this time and will show understanding to individual circumstances.

Do Year 12 have to wear business dress?

Year 12s will not be required to wear a suit. They will be required to dress smartly.

Will my child be able to wear face coverings?

The Government guidance states that “Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings. Schools and other education and childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus”.

However, if a student or member of staff wishes to wear PPE, that is their personal choice which will be supported and respected. Any PPE must not be disposed of on the school premises, it must be bagged and brought home.

As a school we are keen to stress the importance to everyone of other hygiene measures (hand washing, social distancing, frequent cleaning of surfaces).

What will be included in face-to-face lessons?

Year 10

Year 10 will receive lessons in the core subjects: English, Maths and Science. These sessions are being carefully planned by subject specialists and will complement the remote learning resources that will continue to be set. Lessons may

include new content or teachers may focus on consolidation of previous learning. Lessons will be tailored to ability groups.

Year 12

Year 12 will receive lessons in their A Level groups from their subject teachers. Lessons may include new content or teachers may focus on consolidation of previous learning.

Sessions for both year groups will include wellbeing checks and additional support will be put in place if necessary.

Why is the school not offering more 'live' remote teaching?

We have been working hard on improving our remote learning offer and are pleased that we are now including more personalised approaches to remote learning. Staff are making use of audio or video to introduce explain more difficult concepts, talk students through lessons and gives a more personal learning experience.

We are introducing more ways in which students can ask their teachers direct questions, including a new facility on ClassCharts which will be launched shortly.

We are constantly reviewing our provision and trying to do more to support our students. We require all students to respond to the questionnaire which was sent out on Class Charts this week, asking students to agree to the remote learning behaviours.

Why are Year 10s only being offered one morning of face-to-face time a week?

We are working with Government guidance which states that "secondary schools should ensure that only a quarter of pupils in year 10 and year 12 are in school at any one time". This means we are not able to have more than approximately 85 students on site at any one time. In order to be able to offer all of Year 10 face-to-face time in school each week, and to also accommodate Year 12, we can only offer one session a week. If the Government guidance changes we will review this offer.

Will Year 10 groups be placed in groups of similar ability? Will Year 10 be taught by specialist teachers?

Yes. The groups have been organised by the English, Maths and Science teams. Placing students in groups of similar ability will allow lessons to be tailored and for learning time to be maximised whilst in school. Where possible students will be taught by their normal teachers, however when this is not possible they will be taught by other subject specialists.

I would like my child to be able to socialise more widely with their friends while in school.

Whilst we hope that school is able to return to normality in the future, we currently cannot provide any opportunities for students to socialise / mix with students outside of their group whilst on site. Again, we are following Government guidance.

We strongly advise parents to speak to their children about the importance of maintaining social distancing whilst travelling to and from school.

Are there any changes being made to next year's GCSEs/A Levels because students have missed out on a lot of school?

We have not received any further information on this at the moment. As soon as we do we will share it with parents.

My child has Special Educational Needs. What additional support will they be offered while in school?

SSAs will work with students who require additional support in lessons. We will continue to review the support we are able to offer in the coming weeks.

My child is in Year 10. Can we specify a particular day we would like our child to come into school?

Unfortunately we are not able to offer this flexibility at this stage.

I am a key worker, can my child attend the key worker provision for the rest of the day after Year 10s leave, or on different days?

No. An important part of our health and safety precautions is to limit the mixing between different groups of students. Year 10s can remain in key worker provision if you require them to be on site more than one day a week, but they will not be able to move between the 2 groups.

My child is in Year 12 and will have to use public transport to get to and from school. Are you able to condense the sessions into fewer days so they don't have to do this so often?

We are not able to reduce days as we are not allowed more than a ¼ of Year 10 and 12 collectively on site at any one time. We have made the Year 12 timings between 1pm and 3pm so students will not be travelling at peak times.

I am concerned students will not follow social distancing guidance on the way to and from school and while on site.

If any student deliberately or consistently fails to follow rules that are put into place for everyone's protection, then contact will be made with the student's parents. An addendum has been added to the school's behaviour policy to help the school to protect all students and staff.

Will additional help be available from the Pastoral team for students who are anxious about returning?

Yes. The pastoral team will speak to students on an individual basis while on site and arrange additional support where necessary.

If a child does not return to school will they still receive the learning given in these face to face lessons?

All work covered in the face-to-face lessons will be shared remotely for students who are not able to attend. We cannot guarantee that all elements of the face-to-face lesson will be able to be shared remotely.

Will all students' temperatures be taken every time they arrive on site?

Since releasing the initial guidance last week, we have changed our position on this.

We will not be taking the temperatures of all students on arrival. This decision has been led by our risk assessing and the government guidance, which now states: "Parents, carers and settings do not need to take children's temperatures every morning. Routine testing of an individual's temperature is not a reliable method for identifying COVID-19."

Educational and childcare settings should reiterate to parents the need to follow the standard national advice on the kind of symptoms to look out for that might be due to COVID-19, and where to get further advice.”

Parents should not send their child into school if they are displaying any symptoms of COVID-19.

What will happen if a student develops symptoms of COVID-19 while on the school site?

Should a student become unwell, they should tell their teacher who will request support from a trained first aider who will collect the student from the classroom.

If a child exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 they will be isolated in the pupil support area until a parent can come to collect them. They will be advised to self-isolate for 7 days, the members of their household self-isolate for 14 days and to book a COVID-19 test.

Where the student or staff member tests negative, they can return to school and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where a student or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England’s local health protection team will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise the school on the most appropriate action to take.

I am concerned that the risk of sending my child back to school outweighs the benefit at this time.

The decision whether to send your child into school is entirely yours. We have outlined the provision we feel we can offer whilst reducing the risk to the school community. We are encouraging students in eligible year groups to attend. We believe that the benefits of students being in school and seeing their peers, will help many students socially, as well as academically.

Will policies be reviewed to check they are fit for purpose as we bring students back into school?

Yes. We have reviewed our safeguarding and behaviour policies. We have also updated our First Aid procedures, emergency evacuation procedures and classroom expectations.

If we don’t send our child back in on 15th June can we change our minds later on?

Yes. We understand that some parents will not want to send their children back into school immediately. If you change your mind, please notify the school via 201office@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk so we can ensure the correct provision is in place.