



Flixton Primary School
Full Opening Plan for September 2020

July 2020

Guiding Principles

On Thursday 2nd July, the Government set out guidance for schools in England to open to all pupils from September, in light of a continued reduction in transmission of the Covid-19 virus across the country. The school has been working, before and since that announcement, to develop an effective plan to allow all pupils to return in a safe way, that supports them during what could be a difficult time. For the majority of our children, their last day of 'normal' school was in mid-March, and a return to full time school will come after nearly six months of learning from home.

The guiding principles for full opening are very similar to those within our previous plan for wider opening – the health, safety and well-being of our children, families and staff is paramount. The decisions within this plan are firmly rooted within these principles.

Aim

Our aim is to ensure as smooth a transition back into full time school as possible for our children, within the guidelines provided for us by the Government.

In line with the Government's guidance, we will create year group 'bubbles', ie. year groups of children who are kept separate from other groups. The logistical challenges within and around school make individual class bubbles very difficult to manage, (for example at the beginning and end of the school day), although during the day any interaction between classes will be limited as much as is practicable.

The school will ensure it follows the Government's system of controls. These are based around both prevention and response:

Prevention measures are:

1. avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms;
2. more frequent thorough hand cleaning;
3. good respiratory hygiene practices ('Catch It, Kill It, Bin It');
4. regular enhanced cleaning, including frequently touched surfaces;
5. minimising contact and mixing, and maintain social distancing where possible;
6. where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

Guidance states that schools must, at all times, follow the first four preventative measures, and consider the fifth, putting in place measures that can support it if possible. Number 6 applies only in very specific circumstances.

Response measures are;

1. engage with the NHS Test and Trace process;
2. manage confirmed cases of Covid-19 amongst the school community;
3. contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

These measures are relevant in the event of a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 within the school.

If we enact the above measures as stated in the guidance, the risk of transmission of Covid-19 is significantly reduced and school is confident it is managing that risk effectively.

Overall Operational Plan

The school will aim to return all existing, enrolled pupils to school as quickly as possible. This plan will, however, necessitate a very short pause in admitting new children into the Nursery and Reception classes.

In light of the unprecedented situation we are in, we have created a bespoke 'reintegration' plan which we believe gives us the best possible chance to support our pupils on returning to us.

School will open for all existing pupils (current Nursery to current Year 5) on Wednesday 2nd September. This is one day earlier than previously published. Existing pupils will return initially to the classrooms and class teachers (where possible) that they left in March. For example, Mrs Young's class (1Y) will return in September to the 1Y classroom to be taught initially by Mrs Young.

By allowing children to return to the classes they left so abruptly in March, we are hopeful that it will ease any anxieties they have, allow them to more quickly re-establish themselves into school life within familiar surroundings and be supported on that initial return by someone they know well, and who knows them well. This will allow us to quickly identify children who struggle with returning to school and support them, and allow our children a chance to settle back in, before they change classes.

Children will remain in their 'previous' class for the first two weeks of the new term, 'finishing' on Friday 11th September. During those two weeks, we envisage staff will also spend time making links with their new classes, offering the opportunity for a transition of sorts.

School will then be closed on Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th September to allow teachers the opportunity to move rooms if necessary, and prepare for the 'new' year. On Wednesday 16th September, school will 're-open' with children moving to their new class and their new teacher. Our new Reception and Nursery children will begin their transition programme at this point.