

COVID-19 | TSAT Frequently Asked Questions

We have received questions from parents regarding the return to school after COVID-19 lockdown. Pulling together firm plans in a situation where information is constantly changing is a challenge, however we have plans which align with government guidance.

The information in this FAQ document will be updated regularly and updates will be posted on the Coronavirus page of the TSAT site.

	Question	Answer
1.	<i>What plans has the school made to protect pupils from Coronavirus?</i>	<p>We are following the Government's system of controls:</p> <p>Prevention:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school 2) Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual 3) Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach 4) Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach 5) Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible 6) Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) <p>Response to any infection:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7) Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process 8) Manage confirmed cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community 9) Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice <p>Each school will be publishing a risk assessment showing additional control measures put into place for the prevention of a Covid-19 infection. These risk assessments will be published on the school website.</p>

2.	<i>Do we still use same drop off and pick up points?</i>	To ensure social distancing we may ask you to use different entrances and/or to attend at specific timeslots. There will also be additional signage at the entrances to school. NOTE: Your school will contact you with specific instructions.
3.	<i>What time does school start?</i>	In order to welcome students back to school safely and to ensure social distancing we may introduce a staggered timetable. NOTE: Please check your school's site for specific information and to read relevant school letters that have been shared already.
4.	<i>How do I know if my child can return to school?</i>	Providing they are showing no symptoms and there have been no symptoms in your home then yes, your child can return. The Government has advised that all year groups return to school in September. To find out more information on your particular school. NOTE: Please check your school's site for specific information and to read relevant school letters that have been shared already.
5.	<i>I'm concerned about safety – do I have to send my child to school?</i>	We appreciate that this is a very worrying time and we are working hard to ensure that both students and staff are kept safe upon returning to schools, with additional safety and cleaning measures in place. Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. The Government plan for all children to return in September in a bid to reverse the enormous costs of missed education. If you have any concerns with this, please do contact your school to discuss further.
6.	<i>Is it safe to return to school?</i>	Our schools have already been open for some children over the summer term and we will again have enhanced safety and cleaning measures in place, such as regular hand-washing and limiting the movement of children in school. By following the guidelines that the government has published to schools (you can read them here we are consistently risk assessing each and every school, classroom and learning space.
7.	<i>My child will be joining in Year 7, what will be in place to help the transition?</i>	It is unlikely that schools will be able to run the usual 'Transition Days', so our schools have developed a suite of online tools, video and content to help your child access information, feel safe and get excited about their next step. Please refer to your school website for more information.
8.	<i>What are the rules on attendance?</i>	It is strongly recommended that every effort is made to ensure your child/children attend school from September onwards unless otherwise stated.

9.	What is a family bubble?	<p>Secondary school - The groups are likely to be the size of a year group to enable schools to deliver the full range of curriculum subjects and students to receive specialist teaching.</p> <p>Primary school. The groups should be the standard primary classroom size, if that can be achieved, it is recommended, as this will help to reduce the number of people who could be asked to isolate should someone in a group become ill with coronavirus (COVID-19).</p>
10.	What is happening with PPE and face coverings?	<p>Following the updated government guidance on the use of face coverings within schools, pupils and staff may wear face coverings within communal areas and classroom, if they wish though the acceptable style will be outlined by each school – please check your school’s website for further information.</p> <p>In addition to this, a face covering must be worn when travelling on public transport to school.</p> <p>Key points: Face covering: A simple cloth/fabric covering over the mouth and nose through which you can breathe comfortably. Face mask: Used by medical/care professionals (typically labelled FFP2 or FFP 3 - FFP stands for filtering face piece)</p> <p><i>This guidance has been prepared by TSAT using government guidance informed by Public Health England (PHE).</i></p>
11.	What will happen with school lunches?	<p>We have been working hard with our catering partners Chartwells to ensure that as a Trust we can continue to offer a range of food options while mindful of our commitment to the Health and Safety of our staff and pupils.</p> <p>Primary Schools; We will be providing hot and cold lunches on a two-week menu cycle which will include all popular dishes. Pupils will be eating either in the school lunch hall or may have to take their food choice back to their classroom to eat.</p>

		<p>Secondary Schools; We will be providing a range of hot and cold pre-packaged Grab & Go foods as well as a main meal option for lunch. There will be a NO CASH system in place, so use of the online payments system is essential to top-up student accounts. NOTE: For Y7 students who may not have been enrolled on the system as yet, the overdraft facility will be enabled. Please contact your school for further information.</p> <p>All schools; We will be ensuring social distancing measures are upheld in dining rooms and are planning on staggered lunch breaks to ensure pupils are socially distanced.</p> <p>Robust controls will be implemented in kitchens to ensure catering staff are social distancing while preparing and serving food. Plus, extra checks will be made to ensure our caterers' exceptionally high food safety standards are maintained.</p>
12.	Will all the schools within the TSAT be social distancing?	We will be endeavouring to maintain social distancing as far as possible. Our Family Bubbles will help to minimise the amount of unnecessary contact with others.
13.	Will students have to wear school uniform?	All students across all schools will be expected to wear full school uniform.
14.	How can the school help my child to understand social distancing?	<p>As stated in government advice we will continue to use 'bubbles' for students to work in. These bubbles will minimise the amount of unnecessary contact with others.</p> <p>In addition, all of our schools will be working from bespoke timetables and laying out their classrooms to keep the maximum distance where possible. One-way systems will be introduced where possible, and signage and markings will help to demonstrate how pupils and staff can socially distance while at school.</p>
15.	What will you be doing to keep my child safe?	We will continue with the 'family bubble' however it will now consist of an entire year group. Students are, therefore, protected from contact with any other child / student outside their family bubble while at school. Plus, additional cleaning will be in place to ensure high standards of cleanliness are met during the school day.

16.	What if the school has to shut due to a second wave of Coronavirus?	Our risk assessment includes plans to revert back to our successful remote learning platform based on Microsoft Teams. Staff have been working to ensure that, should it be required, this transition will be as seamless as possible.
17.	If there is another outbreak, will the school stay open?	In all circumstances, we will be following the guidelines issued by the Government, Public Health England and other statutory bodies. And will be in contact with parents and carers.
18.	Will the school be staying open for the October half term?	Depend on Government policy at the time. When a decision is made communications will be shared.
19.	Will you carry out testing for coronavirus?	We will not be carrying out tests for Covid-19, we will follow Government advice. Though testing kits can be requested and locations of testing centres found here .
20.	Will there be any school trips in the Autumn term?	The government advice is that no overseas or UK residential trips are advised, which applies to all TSAT schools at this current time. Any trips planned by TSAT school within the UK (non-overnight domestic educational visits) must include a full risk assessment, including Covid-19 control measures, and be put through the Evolve process as usual. It is recommended that, where possible, all such trips are postponed until further notice.
21.	Will the school have contact sports e.g. rugby?	Following Government guidance, contact sports should be avoided by schools both during the school day and as part of any extra-curricular activity.
22.	Will there still be before - and after - school clubs?	Please contact your school for this information. Where possible, we will try to resume breakfast and after-school provisions following the Government advice, though this will be dependent on the logistics of keeping pupils in small, consistent groups where we cannot keep them in their bubble groups.