

DUNEDIN SCHOOL

Delivers unique education to individuals

Returning to School

13th August 2020

How are we reducing the risk of Covid-19 Transmission?

Our Hygiene Protocols

We know that many of our pupils, parents and carers will be worried about how we are making sure we reduce the risk of infection when pupils return to school.

Please be assured that we are following the most up-to-date guidance, published by the Scottish Government in July. Staff have carried out all the required risk assessments and will be following stringent protocols to make sure our school environment is as safe as possible, whilst also trying to make sure our pupils still feel cared for and nurtured.

We have tried to summarise the measures we have put in place below, but we know you might still have questions about what we are doing. If you do, please, get in touch so we can talk through any of your worries, questions or concerns. If we work together, these new rules and regulations, as unwelcome as they are, will hopefully feel less daunting for all of us.

Handwashing

- Frequent handwashing is a vital component of reducing the risk of infection. Staff will remind all pupils to wash their hands when they come in to school and just before they leave, as well as before and after eating and after using the toilet
- In addition, hand sanitisers will be available at the main entrance and in all teaching rooms for use by staff and pupils throughout the day and when they change rooms

Cleaning

- All staff will have responsibility for cleaning equipment and designated areas of the school throughout the day, using the methods and cleaning products advised in the Scottish Government guidance
- We have also increased the frequency of the regular whole-school cleaning schedule carried out by our contracted cleaning company

Equipment and Storage of Personal Belongings

- Each of our pupils will be given their own plastic storage box in which to keep all personal items, work books etc
- Equipment and resources will **not** be shared between pupils
- We will provide each pupil with their own personal set of stationery (including pencils, pens, erasers, sharpeners, calculator, note pad etc) which they will not have to share with anyone else. This can be stored securely, at the end of each day, in their storage box
- Each pupil will be assigned a laptop to be stored in school at the end of the day
- Each pupil will have dedicated text books which can be stored in their box or taken home

- Pupils will be able to bring in their mobile phones as usual, as long as they are able to keep these about their person, and they **do not** come into contact with any surface in the school
- For the time being, we must ask all pupils to hang coats and jackets on the back of their chairs, rather than on the pegs in the cloakroom area. All chairs will be cleaned between classes
- Alternatively, pupils might want to store jackets in their personal storage box to keep them safe

Lunch and Snacks

- For the time being, we must ask that pupils bring in their own eating and drinking utensils so we can avoid sharing cutlery etc from the school kitchen
- Unfortunately, we must also avoid shared use of kitchen facilities, so neither staff nor pupils will be able to store food in the fridge, or use the microwave or kettle. We recommend pupils use lunch boxes with a cool storage if perishable/high risk foods are being brought into school. Please get in touch if you would like help with, or advice on this. Pupils will need to bring all cutlery, crockery etc home to be washed
- We are asking *all* staff and pupils to avoid Cameron Toll Shopping Centre during break and lunchtimes for the time being. This means that all staff and pupils must bring in their own snacks and a packed lunch. We know this will be a great inconvenience for some, so please let us know if this will be difficult for you and if we can help in any way

Physical Distancing

- Where possible, it is recommended that there should be 2m distancing between staff and pupils
- Pupils **do not** have to maintain a 2m distance from each other, but, where possible, they will be encouraged to do so, especially if involved in physical activity
- In classrooms, desks will be arranged so that pupils sit side-by-side and not facing each other
- Hugs and handshakes have to be discouraged!
- Unfortunately, until further notice, we cannot welcome our parents into school as we normally would. Current advice states that adults other than teaching or regular staff should not enter the school building unless absolutely required to do so. However, that does not mean that you can't keep in touch, or contact us whenever you need to. Please email your son or daughter's tutor, or just get in touch with Rosie by phone or by the main school email if you need to talk to us

Face Masks

We know that, for many people, wearing a face mask can be difficult. Pupils may also find it disconcerting to be taught by teachers who are wearing face masks, as masks can make it more difficult to hear, and to read expressions. However, sometimes face masks may be necessary in school, if teachers are to offer the one-to-one support they want to give to our pupils. With these challenges in mind, staff have agreed the following:

- When staff and pupils are able to keep 2m apart, they **do not** need to wear face masks
- Face masks **should** be worn by **both** staff and pupils if they need to be less than 2m apart from each other, e.g. when a teacher needs to be nearer to a pupil for a short time to help them with work
- If pupils feel more comfortable wearing a face mask throughout the day, they are welcome to do so

- For the sake of clarity, we ask that pupils use **face masks**, and **NOT** face coverings such as snoods and scarves at the current time
- We will provide disposable face masks if pupils and staff do not have their own
- After use, disposable face masks will be put in a dedicated, covered pedal bin
- All pupils and staff will be reminded to wash their hands after disposing of face masks
- If staff and pupils bring in their own re-useable face masks, we will ask them to store their masks safely and hygienically in a plastic bag when they are not being worn. We will provide bags for this purpose and pupils do not need to worry about taking these to school
- Reusable face masks can be taken home to be washed in the bags provided

We appreciate that this is a long list of new rules and regulations that we really wish we did not have to impose. However, whatever we can all do to keep pupils, families and staff safe is worth it.

Please keep in touch with us. We might not be able to welcome you in to the building quite so easily as before, but we still rely on you working with us to make sure all our pupils at Dunedin have a positive experience of school and feel valued and cared for.