

# DUNEDIN SCHOOL

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## Returning to School – Our Hygiene Protocols

Updated August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Please find below updated information on the measures put in place for pupils and staff returning to school on 25 August. Could you please read through these and discuss them with your child before they return next week.

### Handwashing and/or Sanitising

- 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
- Pupils will be asked to clean their workspace when leaving or entering a room
- 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 continue to have their own plastic storage box in which to keep all personal items, work books etc
- Bags should be placed in storage boxes or on the floor and not on desks or worktops.
- Equipment and resources will **not** be shared between pupils if possible. If resources need to be shared, cleaning protocols will be followed to ensure that this is done safely e.g. washing or sanitising hands thoroughly before and after touching
- We will provide each pupil with stationery (including pencils, pens, erasers, sharpeners, calculator, notepad 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 has been assigned a laptop to be stored in school at the end of the day or taken home for home learning
- 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. Pupils should wash hands or sanitise after touching their mobile phone
- 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

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## 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
- Pupils can bring in their own packed lunch or purchase lunch at Cameron Toll during break and lunchtimes if permission has been given

## Physical Distancing

- School staff and other adults in the school will need to apply a strict 1 metre distance (minimum) when with other adults and with pupils
- Although pupils no longer need to distance from each other, we will be encouraging them to do so where possible and not to crowd together or be in close contact with their peers
- 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
- If you need to talk to us please phone or email Rosie in the main office or contact your child's tutor in the first instance
- If you need to come into the school grounds, please wear a face covering and maintain at least a 1m distance from staff and pupils at all times
- Parents/carers should avoid contact with other parents, children and young people at the school gates and should maintain distancing of at least 1m when dropping off and picking up children

## Face Masks

- Face coverings should now be worn at **all times** by staff and young people in secondary schools; including S1-S3 learners (not just the senior phase) in classrooms, in communal areas and when moving about the school.
- Face masks can be removed when eating or outside of the school
- We recognise that some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings
- 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 bin
- Pupils and staff will be reminded to sanitise their hands after putting on, taking off or 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

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## **Ventilation**

- A greater emphasis is being placed on ventilation, by keeping windows open as much as possible, and doors open when feasible and safe to do so to improve and ensure good indoor ventilation
- Pupils should wear warm clothing, and additional layers of clothing can be stored in their boxes

## **Testing for Pupils and Staff**

- Pupils and staff who have consented to asymptomatic testing will carry out a test twice weekly at home and log the result online at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19result](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19result)
- Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) tests will be provided by the school and instructions for use are provided with the kits
- In addition, in accordance with advice, we ask that all pupils take a lateral flow test the night before, or the morning of, returning to school
- If a pupil or member of staff receives a positive result they must report the result online as above, self-isolate and book a confirmatory PCR test. They should also inform the school to support contact tracing activities
- Pupils will no longer have to automatically self-isolate for 10 days if they are a close contact with someone who has tested positive. Instead, they will be able to return to school once they receive a negative PCR test. However, if they develop symptoms, or receive a positive test, they must continue to self-isolate for the full 10-day period.
- A negative LFD result must not be taken as leave to relax or ignore physical distancing or other measures intended to reduce transmission

## **Be Alert to Symptoms**

- If staff or pupils have symptoms, they must self-isolate (along with their households) and book a PCR test via the NHS Coronavirus service
- A parent should inform the school office as soon as possible and the child should not attend school before the period of isolation is finished, unless they receive a negative PCR test result and have no symptoms

Please keep in touch with us. If you have questions about what we are doing then we can talk through any of your questions or concerns. If we work together, these continuing restrictions, rules and regulations, as unwelcome as they are, will hopefully feel less daunting for all of us.

Kind regards

Staff at Dunedin School