



Returning to School

Following the Latest Restrictions

Extracts from the Department for Education
about returning to school from 8th March 2021

RETURNING TO SCHOOL

From 8th March all children should return to school and attendance will be mandatory from this date. Secondary aged pupils (year 7 and above) should take part in asymptomatic testing upon their return in the week beginning 8th March. Pupils can return to school following their first negative test result.

Pupils choosing not to be tested should attend school in line with the school's phased return arrangements.

If you are a parent of a child who is vulnerable or you are a critical worker, your child should continue to attend school throughout, unless they receive a positive test result.

Mandatory attendance means that it is your legal duty as a parent to send your child (if they are of compulsory school age) to school.

Testing is voluntary and your child will not be tested unless they (if they are aged over 18) or you (or another parent/carer) have given informed consent. We strongly encourage you and your child to take part, to help us break chains of transmission and manage the virus. Your child can return to school should you or they choose not to be tested or are not able to be tested.

Local authorities and schools have a range of legal powers to enforce attendance if a child or young person misses school without a valid reason.

We know some parents will be feeling anxious about their children returning to school, if you have concerns about your child attending, you should discuss these with your school. School will offer appropriate support to ensure pupils have a successful return to school.

REMOTE EDUCATION

Schools have been working hard to implement remote education effectively. From 8th March, where a pupil cannot attend school on site because they are complying with government guidance or law relating to coronavirus (COVID-19), for example if they need to self-isolate or shield, schools have a duty to provide remote education for school-aged children.

Where it is needed, schools should provide remote education equivalent in length to the teaching your child would usually get in school. This will include recorded or live direct teaching time, as well as time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently. The amount of remote education should be a minimum of:

3 hours a day for Key Stage 1 (years 1 to 2)

4 hours a day for Key Stage 2 (years 3 to 6)

5 hours a day for Key Stages 3 and 4 (years 7 to 11)

You can find out more about your school's remote education offer on their website. If you have concerns about the amount or quality of the remote education your child is receiving, you should talk to their teacher or headteacher.

If your child needs more support to access remote education, you should speak to your child's school.



FACE COVERINGS

In all Secondary schools face coverings should be worn by everyone (unless exempt) when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained.

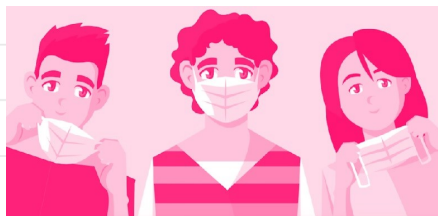
The government now also recommend that face coverings should be worn in classrooms and during activities, unless social distancing can be maintained. This will not apply in situations where a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example PE lessons. Face coverings do not need to be worn by pupils or students when outdoors.

The wearing of face coverings in classrooms is being introduced for a limited time until Easter. It will be kept under review and government guidance will be updated at that point.

This does not apply to younger children in primary schools. Adults (including staff and visitors) should wear face coverings in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible. Therefore parents and visitors will be asked to use face coverings if they come on site.

It is really important that face coverings are worn correctly. Schools will let you and your child know their process for making sure face coverings are put on, removed, stored and disposed of properly.

Some pupils, students and adults may be exempt from wearing face coverings. We expect people to be sensitive to these needs and be aware that the reason some people are less able to wear face coverings may not be visible to others.



LATERAL FLOW TESTING

From 8th March, all secondary aged pupils will be offered three tests to be administered on school premises. After completion of these tests, home testing kits will be supplied by school.

The first three tests should be taken 3 to 5 days apart. Once pupils and students have had one negative test result they can return to school.

After this, all secondary aged pupils will be given home testing kits and will be asked to test themselves twice a week at home and report results to NHS Test and Trace, as well as with school. The home test kits will include instructions for testing and reporting results. Schools will retain their own small testing facilities so that pupils who are unable to test themselves at home can still access testing.

If your child is aged 12 or over they will need adult supervision to self-test and report. You or another adult may conduct the test if necessary. If your child is aged 11 and attending a secondary school, you or another adult should conduct the test.

If your child tests positive at home they will need to self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. If they test positive at school, arrangements should be made for them to be collected, a further test booked (a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test) to confirm the result.



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Holidays

You should plan your holidays within school holidays as usual. Avoid seeking permission to take your children out of school during term time. You should make sure any travel is in line with national travel guidance.

Keep in mind that you and your children may need to self-isolate when you return from a trip overseas.

Admission Processes

Admissions were suspended during the coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown. You can apply in the usual way and admissions will continue to consider your applications.

Admission Appeals

If you have applied to a school and it does not offer your child a place, you have the right to appeal this decision. Admission appeals can now be held by telephone, video conference or in writing, instead of face-to-face hearings.

Elective Home Education

We encourage you to send your children back to school from 8th March, but understand some parents may be considering Elective Home Education (EHE). This is an important decision and should be made in the best interests of your child.

Schools are not required to provide any support to parents who have withdrawn their child for EHE. It is for parents to be certain that home education is right for their child. The Local Authority can provide support and guidance to families who elect to home educate.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Legal Action to Enforce School Attendance

The Local Authority and schools can use various legal interventions if your child is missing school without good reason, including consideration of some of the following:
a fine (sometimes known as a 'penalty notice')

Other Legal Intervention (such as Court Proceedings),
a School Attendance Order or an Education Supervision Order

You can be given one or more of these but the council does not have to do this before prosecuting you.

Fine/Fixed Penalty Notices

As your local council, if we agree with school and think all avenues have been exhausted in trying to support a parent with their child attending school, we can give each parent a fine of £60, which rises to £120 each if you do not pay within 21 days. If you do not pay the fine after 28 days you may be prosecuted for your child's absence from school.

Legal Intervention

This means you may have to attend the Magistrates Court to explain your child's non-school attendance.

School Attendance Order

The Local Authority may issue you with a School Attendance Order if they deem your child is not getting a suitable education.

Education Supervision Order

If you do not co-operate with the Local Authority to ensure your child attends school, the Local Authority can apply to the Magistrates Court for an Education Supervision Order.

OTHER AGENCIES WHO CAN HELP

Locally

Spirit of Salford

Spirit of Salford Helpline has been set up for you to get help, support and advice on lots of different issues that you might be facing at the moment.

Tel: **0800 952 1000** www.salford.gov.uk/spiritofsalford

EWS Service

Salford City Council, Educational Welfare Service
2nd Floor Unity House, Chorley Road, Swinton, M27 5AW

www.salford.gov.uk/education-welfare

SIASS

SIASS offer information, advice and support to children, young people and parents about special educational needs and disability.

Tel: **0161 778 0343/0349**

siass@salford.gov.uk www.salford.gov.uk/special-educational-needs

Salford Family Partnership (Early Help)

Salford Family Partnership is a universal and targeted early help offer for children, young people and families in Salford.

See website for contact detail relevant to your area

<https://www.salford.gov.uk/council-buildings-and-venues/childrens-centres/>

42nd Street

Supporting young people with their emotional wellbeing and mental health.

If you're aged 12 to 25 and you're struggling, they can help.

<https://www.42ndstreet.org.uk/>

Wuu2

A website for young people in Salford aged 11-19 with activities, events, news and videos

<https://www.wuu2.info/>

OTHER WEBSITES FOR SUPPORT

GOV UK Website

Advice and guidance for parents and professionals on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing includes key actions you can take to support your child. It also emphasises the importance of children continuing to remain fit and active.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing> -

Education Endowment Fund

Support and advice for parents and teachers around helping learning of children

[educationendowmentfoundation.org](https://www.educationendowmentfoundation.org)

DfE Blog

Use the DfE blog to find mental health resources for children, parents, carers and school staff.

[dfemedialog.gov.uk](https://www.dfemedialog.gov.uk)

Mind Charity (Mental Health)

Phone **0300 123 3393** www.mind.org.uk

Childline

Childline comforts, advises and protects children 24 hours a day and offers free confidential counselling.

Phone **0800 1111** (24 hours) www.childline.org

YoungMinds

YoungMinds is the UK's leading charity championing the wellbeing and mental health of young people www.youngminds.org.uk

The Mix

The Mix provides information, support and listening for people under 25.

Phone **0808 808 4994** (24 hours) www.themix.org.uk

Barnardo's

Support around how to respond to what you see and hear in your children at home during the pandemic

www.barnardos.org

Child Bereavement UK

Support for children and young people (up to age 25), parents, and families, to rebuild their lives when a child grieves or when a child dies.

www.childbereavementuk.org

NHS UK

NHS mental health services remain open, and have digital tools to connect with people and provide ongoing support.

Get free, confidential support at any time by:
texting SHOUT to 85258