



HOPE WOOD  
ACADEMY

## Parent guide to full school reopening

Please find below a range of questions and answers around full school reopening, should you have any further questions then please do not hesitate to email [hopedwood@ascenttrust.org](mailto:hopedwood@ascenttrust.org)

Question	Response
1. Will my child have to attend school in September?	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings</a></p> <p>Our aim is to have all children back in September so it is important all safety control systems are put in place ready for this. <b>Do not</b> send your child in to school if he/ she is showing Covid-19 symptoms in the last week of the summer holidays.</p>
2. My child is clinically vulnerable/ extremely vulnerable and has been shielding. Can he/ she return in September?	<p>Yes. Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means that even the small number of students who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding.</p> <p>Some students are no longer required to shield, but those who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school in September (usually at their next planned clinical appointment).</p> <p>Any student advised not to return in September will be expected to access remote learning which will be supported and monitored by the class teacher.</p>
3. What if my son/daughter requires medication in school	<p>Medication procedures will follow the usual stringent procedures with appropriate distancing measures in place</p>
4. My child is showing anxiety about coming back to school, what can	<p>In the lead up to the summer holidays. teachers continue to call home and can provide resources such as social stories to help prepare students. Families who are concerned about the anxieties of their son/daughter can contact the academy at any point during the holidays via</p>

be done over the summer to help?	email and someone will get back to you to discuss your concerns, during the last week of the holidays any pupils who are extremely anxious will be invited to visit the academy with parents to talk through how new operations will work. Visual supports are also available via the school website. Please keep updated with posts on our School Facebook page for further resources.
5. Will my child have to wear school uniform?	It is preferable that students wear uniform as this is linked to their pattern and routines when coming to school. Advice has been that students should shower / bathe upon arriving home and wear clean clothes each day.
6. Will my child have a full-time place?	Yes, all students will be given their full entitlement to school hours.
7. Is a phased return possible?	We understand the need to consider any social and emotional difficulties arising as a response to the lockdown and we will offer additional support for students and their families where needed.
8. What if there is a local outbreak of coronavirus?	We will follow guidance from Public Health England should there be any requirements to change our opening and will keep all families informed.
9. Will my child be on his/ her usual transport?	The aim working with the LA is to provide as much normality as possible. This could be affected by the impact of bubbles. If there are to be any changes the LA will communicate with parents as they would normally do. If parents want to transport their own child into school, we will make provision to enable a safe access start and finish to the school day although given the restrictions on and around site it is highly advisable if that you son/daughter has a place on school transport then they access this where possible.
10. Will my child start at 8.50am and finish at 3.10pm?	There will be some slightly staggered starts to minimise the number of students wanting to get off the buses at the same time (see details below).
11. Will my child need to wear a face mask?	No, Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in education settings, except where they are already routinely used as part of close contact care. This evidence will be kept under review. They are not required in education settings as students and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education.
12. Will staff be wearing a face mask?	
13. Will there be routine temperature checks?	No, this is not a reliable method for identifying Coronavirus.
14. Will my child be in a bubble? What will this look like?	Maintaining distinct groups or bubbles that do not mix makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate, and keep that number as small as possible.

	The Academy aims to keep students in bubbles according to where their classroom is based (see below for details).
15. Will my child see friends from other classes?	Students will be taught in their tutor group until at least October, following guidance as it is released. This will be reviewed on a weekly basis.
16. Will class groups be smaller?	Our class sizes are much smaller than mainstream classes; between 4 and 12 students in a tutor group. This means classes can be set out in a way which enables space between everyone.
17. What classroom resources will be available?	For individual and very frequently used equipment, such as pencils and IT equipment, it is recommended that staff and students have their own items that are not shared. Classroom based resources, such as books and games, will be used and shared within the bubble; these will be cleaned regularly, along with all frequently touched surfaces. Resources that are shared between classes or bubbles, such as sports, art and science equipment will be cleaned meticulously between bubbles, or rotated to allow them to be left unused for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different bubbles.
18. Can my child take reading books home or bring in items from home?	All equipment should be limited to essentials such as lunch boxes, hats, coats, books and stationery. Bags are allowed if they are wipe cleanable i.e. not made from fabric. Students will be encouraged to continue taking books home to read.
19. Will my child still have lessons from visiting teachers such as music and Tin Arts?	External visitors will be monitored and social distancing will be encouraged. It is anticipated that this will not fully restart until October unless it is vital in meeting EHCP needs. Internal teachers may move between classes but will be using measures to maintain safety at all times.
20. Will my child be given a cooked lunch?	We expect that kitchens will be fully open from the start of the autumn term. Students will have their lunch in their classroom/ bubble. We expect that to be a cooked lunch for those eating school meals.
21. Should my child bring his/ her PE kit?	Students are being encouraged to bring as little as possible into the Academy. Anything that comes in needs to be in a plastic bag and labelled to minimise any contamination risks. In the first instance of re-opening PE kit is not needed. This will be reviewed in October.
22. Will swimming be accessed?	Full swimming sessions are under review. It is anticipated that all swimming will resume in Autumn 2020 following the recent announcement from the Government. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-gyms-and-pools-to-reopen-safely">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-gyms-and-pools-to-reopen-safely</a>
23. Will the sensory and OT rooms be accessible?	The sensory room will be accessible to a small number of pupils where this is stated as a provision within the EHCP. The OT room will be reviewed to its opening on a weekly basis. It will not be available initially but it is hoped that it will be accessible by October.

<p>24. My child requires a range of professionals to work with him / her (physio, OT) will this take place?</p>	<p>Students will have access to any equipment they require to facilitate their learning or benefit their physical health i.e. walker, standing frame. These will be cleaned thoroughly and regularly. Resources will only be shared if it is practical to disinfect between use. If not, they will be left for 48 hours (72 hours for plastic) before being used by a different student. Class staff will maintain records of this. Class staff will initially be able to follow any programmes such as physiotherapy and the OTs will be in regular communication to update the provision. Rebound therapy will not be available from September. This will be reviewed by October half term.</p>
<p>25. Will there be off-site visits?</p>	<p>Plans are in place to safely access off site visits, with clear risk assessment of visit and individual student needs being a requirement.</p>
<p>26. Will there be work experience?</p>	<p>Initially no. We will have to undertake a thorough inspection of the businesses we use before allowing students to return to their placements. We consider work experience as a crucial part of post-16 education and will be working very closely with providers to ensure our young people can get back into the world of work in the coming academic year. School-based enterprise and work-related learning experiences will still be delivered from September.</p>
<p>27. Will there be social distancing in bubbles and around school?</p>	<p>Where possible. For example, with older children with less complex needs who are able to self-regulate their behaviours without distress, children and young people should also be supported to maintain distance and not touch staff and their peers. This may not be possible for the youngest children and some children with complex needs but we will be doing this where we can, and even doing this some of the time will help. We will make small adaptations to the classroom to support distancing where possible. This will include seating students side by side and facing forwards, rather than face to face or side on, and might include moving unnecessary furniture out of classrooms to make more space.</p>
<p>28. What hand washing and sanitisation facilities will be in place?</p>	<p>Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an easy virus to kill when it is on skin. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser. We will support students to clean their hands regularly, including when they arrive at the setting, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms, after using the toilet and before and after eating. This can be incorporated into a visual timetable.</p>
<p>29. What will toilet access be like?</p>	<p>Toilet access will follow normal use with enhanced cleaning regimes</p>
<p>30. Should we use the home/ school diary for correspondence?</p>	<p>To reduce the risk of contamination communication home will be via phone calls or email. The level of contact required can be arranged between staff and parents.</p>

<p>31. Will I as a parent/ carer be allowed in to school for meetings, assembly etc?</p>	<p>Initially, whole phase assemblies will be postponed. Pictures of student achievement will continue to be posted on our social media site. EHCP meetings will continue virtually or via phone call until at least October.</p>
<p>32. Will there be an after school club?</p>	<p>After school clubs are hoped to be reintroduced in October.</p>
<p>33. What happens if my child shows Covid symptoms?</p>	<p>If anyone in the setting becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home. They must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection</a></p> <p>This may also result in school partial or full closure dependent on bubble access if they then subsequently test positive.</p>
<p>34. What if someone in my child's bubble shows symptoms?</p>	<p>Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms and any students who have been in close contact with them do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves (in which case, they should arrange a test) or if the symptomatic person subsequently tests positive, or they have been requested to do so by NHS Test and Trace. This may also result in school partial or full closure dependent on bubble access if they then subsequently test positive.</p>
<p>35. My child needs adult support with personal care, how will this happen?</p>	<p>This will take place as normal with familiar class staff using the same PPE as they have always used i.e. gloves and an apron but with the addition of a face mask.</p>
<p>36. My child has a behaviour plan and may need adults to keep him/ her and others safe. How will this happen?</p>	<p>We will always use visual and verbal communication to help calm a child. In the event that he/ she does need physical intervention to prevent harm to self, others and property this will be carried out by as few staff members as necessary for the shortest possible time. If a student continues to require such support it may be safest to send him/ her home for the remainder of the day.</p>
<p>37. My child does not understand how the virus may spread, how will he/ she be supported to keep safe?</p>	<p>We are modelling the "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it" approach and staff will use a range of communication methods to reinforce this as required. Hand washing will be incorporated into the day, using songs or raps to make it fun. We are looking to establish a positive environment where children do not feel overwhelmed by the strict hygiene regimes but can take part as if it is a simple, familiar routine.</p>

<p>38. My child has seen the news and lots of sad stories, how will you support him/her to work through this?</p>	<p>Our personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum will cover this at a level appropriate to each learner's understanding. All staff are trained in emotion coaching where we listen, acknowledge and empathise while setting clear boundaries.</p>
<p>39. Our family has suffered a bereavement during lockdown, how can school support my child to manage feelings around this?</p>	<p>We will have a recovery curriculum in place which aims to build feelings of safety, reconstruct relationships, give routine, structure and a rediscovery of the flow of learning where this may have been lost. This will help those experiencing the consequences of loss: anxiety; attachment; bereavement and trauma. We will have access to professional agencies who can offer personalised support as required.</p>

## School opening: timings, drop off and bubbles

On the main Hope Wood site, each phase (EYFS & Primary and Secondary) will form their own bubble, with staff and students remaining within (and not moving between) their bubbles.

A senior leader will be responsible for supporting students and the staff team in each bubble.

**Early Years and Primary bubbles:** Mike Finlay

**Secondary bubbles:** Vickie Gorton

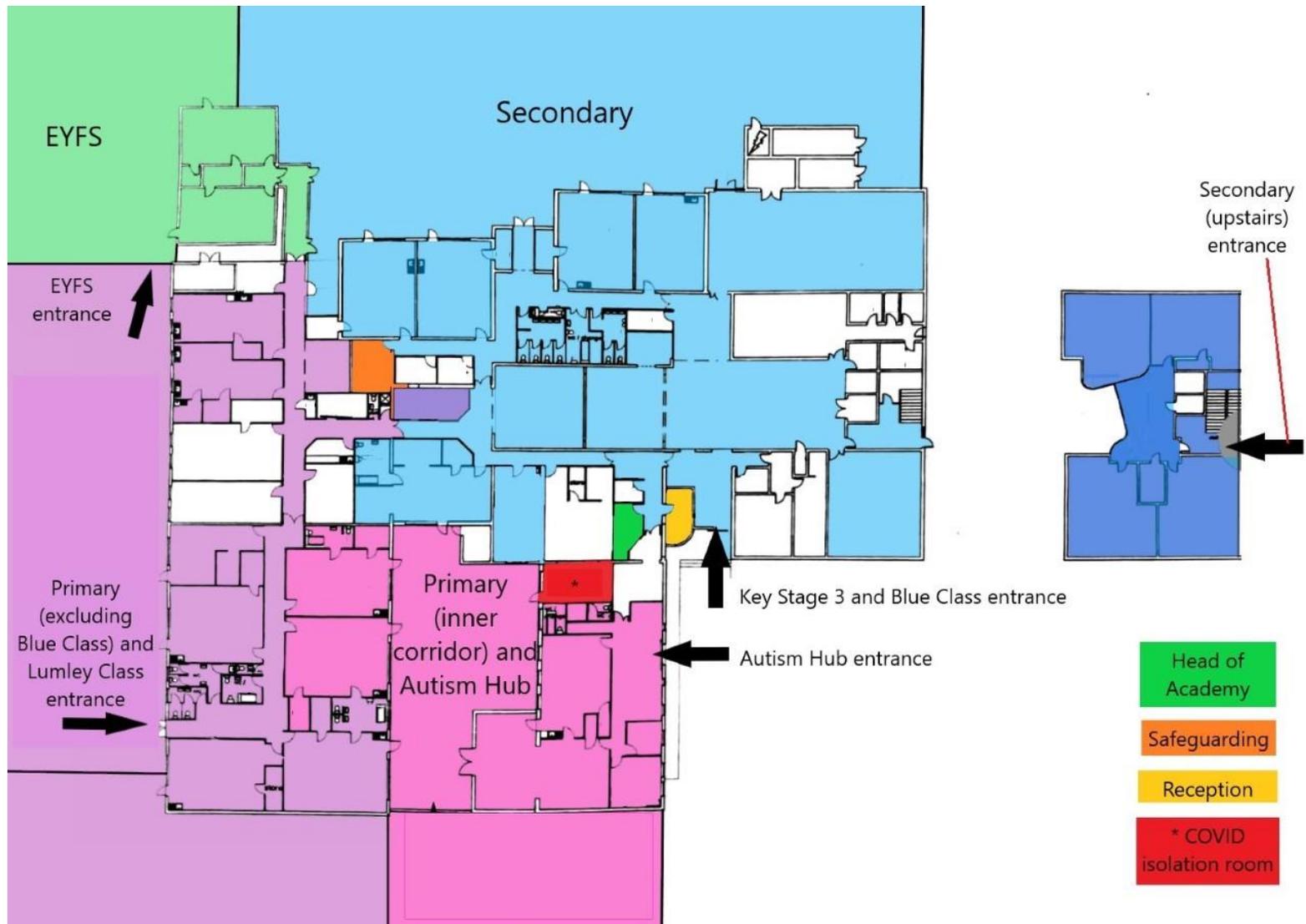
The Head of Academy, Adele Pearson, will oversee the running of all phases, including the new 6<sup>th</sup> Form site.

### **Timings:**

<b>EYFS and Primary</b>	<p>Early Years and Primary students will be returning to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Parent/carers dropping off children themselves should come to the area shown on the map (see next page).</p> <p>Drop off time: 8.40am – 8.50am Pick up time: 2.50pm – 3.05pm</p> <p>Please note that if you are unable to drop off or collect your child by the end of the above times, you will be required to wait until all taxis are off site. Parents will not be able to enter the school building</p>
<b>Secondary</b>	<p>Secondary students will be returning to school on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Parent/carers dropping off children themselves should come to the area shown on the map (see next page).</p> <p>Drop off time: 8.40am – 8.50am Pick up time: 2.50pm – 3.05pm</p> <p>Please note that if you are unable to drop off or collect your child by the end of the above times, you will be required to wait until all taxis are off site. Parents will not be able to enter the school building</p>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Form</b>	<p>6<sup>th</sup> Form students will begin their transition to Edenhill site from 7<sup>th</sup> September. Information will be shared with parent/carers by Anne and the team during the summer break.</p>

**Note: Taxis will drop students off from 9am and will collect students from 3.15pm onwards.**

Drop off and bubbles (main site):



Crawlaw Road