

Frequently Asked Questions

Our aim is to provide you with sufficient information to help support you and your child in the important decision to return to school if they are in either Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6.

We hope that you, our parents, know that Tandridge Learning Trust, the Headteachers and the senior leadership teams and staff at each of the Trust's five schools, have worked hard to put measures in place to ensure that this return is as safe and supportive as possible for pupils, staff and parents. All schools within Tandridge Learning Trust are following the [government health and safety guidance](#) and detailed risk assessments are in place for each school.

We hope the following information will provide reassurance and support you in making the decision for your child to return to school.

How do I know my child will be safe?

All schools have put in rigorous risk assessments to ensure the best possible care for your children. Children will be taught in small 'pods' of up to a maximum of 15 to limit contact with others.

Staff are working hard to ensure pupils have separate spaces to work and clearing furniture to make more room. Soft furnishings and materials have been removed where possible and windows and doors will be propped open to support good ventilation. There will be greater opportunities for outside learning too. Regular supervised handwashing will take place throughout the day to help stop any spread of the virus. Rigorous cleaning will take place throughout the school day as well as after school.

What's the safest way to get my child to school?

Following government advice, the best way to get your child to school is to walk, cycle or use your car. If you need to use public transport you should follow [government travel guidance](#) and wear a mask from 15 June.

What happens at pick up and drop off times?

Only one member per household is allowed to pick up and drop off. Start times will be staggered to avoid queues and parents are asked not to congregate outside the main school entrance. In schools where it is viable, alternative entrances will be created at pick up and drop off times. Your school will advise you of specific arrangements.

When will my child go back to school?

Schools will be in touch with up to the minute advice on re-start times for your children based on their year group. If you are a key worker there will be a place at school already for your child.

How will we move around the building safely?

Schools will be operating a one way systems and corridor segregation when needed, to support social distancing. High traffic areas will be supervised and managed with social distancing being taken into consideration.

Who will be teaching my child?

Children will be taught in small class Pods up to a maximum of 15. They will be taught by familiar members of staff as much as possible. Some Pods will be led by a Teaching Assistant under the direction of a Teacher. It is not possible for parents to request a particular pod or ask for a move once the pupil is allocated a pod.

What might the new classroom look like?

Children will be allocated a classroom or school space and given an individual workspace with their own materials to work with (where appropriate), with desks spaced further apart to support social distancing where possible.

What plans do you have in place to support social distancing?

Children will be taught in small class pods at individual desks – they will as far as possible remain in their pod groups to support social distancing. Schools will operate one way systems around the corridors. Start times, break, lunchtimes and end of day times will be staggered. We can not guarantee social distancing will be maintained with young children, this is why we have the class pod system in line with official guidance.

Should my child wear a mask?

Masks should not be worn in school. Government advice is to increase handwashing with soap and water, and to practise respiratory hygiene ('catch it bin it') to help stop the spread of the virus. Young children will remove their mask and put it down, which causes increased risk of spreading infection.

Will staff wear masks?

PPE will not need to be worn by staff unless it is part of their normal role and procedures e.g. First Aid, or they are dealing with a child who has developed symptoms.

What happens at break and lunch times?

Play times will be staggered and children kept within their class pods in separate play areas to limit contact with others. Children may bring in their own packed lunch in either a disposable bag or hard, washable lunchbox. School caterers will provide a packed lunch for children on FSM and those wishing to have a school meal. Pupils will eat their lunch outside (weather permitting) or in their pod space.

How will school be different now?

Although the organisation of school will look different we continue to offer the same high levels of care and support to you at this difficult time. In class we will maintain close to normal practice to support children's learning and aide their transition back to school.

What happens if someone in their class develops symptoms?

Children or staff displaying symptoms should not attend school and should make an appointment to get themselves tested. In the event that a child displays symptoms of COVID-19 they will be immediately isolated and parent/carer contacted to take them home. We will need parents be contactable at all times and to act quickly in these circumstances.

What if it is confirmed that someone definitely has COVID-19?

All children and adults in that pod of 15 will be told to self-isolate for 14 days and members of their household to self-isolate for 14 days. Deep cleaning will take place at the school as appropriate.

What if I decide that I don't want my child to return to school at this time?

This decision is entirely up to you as a family. We are following government guidance and doing everything we can to make school as safe as we can for children and adults alike. School leaders have worked exceptionally hard to completely re-organise school routines, organisation and classroom layouts. However, it is up to you to decide whether you want your child to return. We will not be taking any absence action for the remainder of this academic year in line with guidance.

Will learning activities still be available remotely?

Yes, teachers will continue to make learning activities available for all year groups. For those year groups who could return to school, the activities for remote learning will be in line with those being taught in school as much as is possible.

What are you doing to support transition to secondary for Y6 children?

We will focus time on preparing children for the move to secondary school and ensuring that they have the necessary knowledge and skills to make a successful transition. We are also working with secondary schools to organise alternative transition opportunities and plan for later transition days which will follow government guidance to ensure they are as safe as they can be.

How can I help?

- By supporting our new arrangements and moving mindfully around school, noting signs and keeping socially distant from others.
- By reporting any family symptoms of coronavirus to school at the earliest opportunity.
- By observing current social distancing arrangements outside of school to help keep all our pupils and staff safe.
- By sending your child into school in clean “home” clothes each day. Uniform and book bags are not required but we do ask that footwear is appropriate and suitable for sport and outdoor learning. Please also provide them with warm and waterproof clothing /or sun hats, etc., when necessary - they will be outdoors a lot. Although it doesn't appear in the guidance we would advise that when your child gets home you wash their clothes straightaway and they have a bath or shower.

Finally, we understand that these are difficult times with lots of uncertainties. We are here to help. If you have any further questions please contact your school's main school office via email and they will get back to you as soon as they can.