

Title	Frequently Asked Questions for Parents/Carers
Summary introduction	<p>In response to local needs, this frequently asked questions (FAQS) paper has been prepared to collate and respond to common questions asked by parents about their child/ren returning to a childcare settings.</p> <p>Some answers will depend on individual setting's circumstances and will need to be added or amended by the settings themselves Before issuing, please check all the answers reflect your setting's practice and advice.</p> <p>This is not an exclusive or exhaustive list of questions and/ or responses, but has been produced based on information available at the time of writing. The information will be updated periodically and will remain subject to change as more timely and relevant information, advice and guidance becomes made available superceding previous information.</p>
Audience	Educational/childcare settings and parents/carers
Date of issue	21 st May 2020
Effective from	1 st June 2020
Review date	To be reviewed fortnightly (or sooner in response to local needs or government legislative changes)

Ref.	Question	Response(s)
	Which children can attend schools and childcare settings from the 1st June?	<p>Many education and childcare settings are already open to priority groups (vulnerable children and children of critical workers.</p> <p>From the week commencing the 1st June:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - primary schools will welcome back children in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6, alongside priority groups. - secondary schools, sixth form and further education colleges will offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 students who are due to take key exams next year, alongside the full time provision they are offering to priority groups. - early years providers, including childminders, will welcome back all children. - Special schools, special post-16 institutions and hospital schools will work towards a phased return of more children and young people without a focus on specific year groups.

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		This approach aims to limit numbers within schools and further education settings while ensuring that the children and young people who can benefit from attending most are able to do so.
	What if my child is eligible to attend school but has siblings who are not?	<p>Only the priority year groups will return from the 1st June. This does not include siblings in different year groups unless those siblings are in a priority group, for example, the children of critical workers.</p> <p>It is hoped that all primary school children can come back to school before the summer holidays, for a month if feasible, although this will be kept under review.</p>
	How will risks to children and staff be managed?	<p>A thorough risk assessment has been undertaken to address risks associated with the coronavirus, so that a range of protective measures can be put in place, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Arrangement of rooms for social distancing ✓ Small key groups with consistent staff (bubble) ✓ No mixing with other key groups/bubbles ✓ Staggered lunch/break ✓ Cleaning of equipment ✓ Restricted use of equipment ✓ Regular handwashing ✓ Daily cleaning ✓ Toilet arrangements ✓ Staggered drop off and pick up times/sites ✓ Social distancing for parents picking up children
	Will children and staff need to wear face coverings when they return to the childcare setting?	Wearing a face covering or face mask in childcare settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or childcare settings. Staff and children are therefore not required to wear face coverings.

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		<p>Face coverings should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may increase the risk of transmission.</p>
	<p>What if a parent insists their child wears a mask?</p>	<p>Inform the parent that this is not recommended and outline the reasons why. If a parent still insists, masks should only be worn by those that are able to handle them as directed, to avoid risk of transmission.</p>
	<p>If my child is showing symptoms of coronavirus what do I do?</p>	<p>If a child develops coronavirus symptoms, they should remain at home and self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All children who are attending an education or childcare setting (over the age of 5), will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this situation.</p> <p>Where the child tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.</p> <p>Where the child tests positive, the rest of their key group/bubble within their childcare setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider key group do not need to self-isolate unless the child they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.</p>
	<p>How do I access a test for my child?</p>	<p>Testing is available for everyone over the aged of 5 years old. To access testing parents/carers will be able to use the 111 online coronavirus service if their child is 5 or over. Parents will be able to call 111 if their child is aged under 5 for advice.</p>
	<p>I have a child that is under 5 attending childcare, can they be tested?</p>	<p>Children under 5 are unable to be tested. Parents should call 111 for advice, if their child is aged under 5 and showing symptoms of coronavirus.</p> <p>A symptomatic under 5 year old should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. As no tests are available for under 5's unless hospitalised, the symptomatic under 5 should be treated as positive and their household members will need to self-isolate for 14 days.</p>

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	<p>What happens if another child or member of staff attending the same setting tests positive for coronavirus?</p>	<p>If the individual that tests positive is in your child's immediate key group/bubble, you will be notified and your child will need to self-isolate at home for 14 days. However other members of your household will not need to self-isolate unless your child develops symptoms.</p> <p>If the individual that tests positive is not in your child's immediate key group/bubble your child can continue going to the setting and will not need to self-isolate.</p> <p>As part of the national test and trace programme, if multiple cases are detected within your child's immediate key group/bubble or in the wider setting, Dudley's Health Protection Team will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise us on the most appropriate action to take.</p>
	<p>Should I keep my child at home if they have an underlying health condition or live with someone in a clinically vulnerable group?</p>	<p>Children who are considered <i>clinically extremely vulnerable (shielding)</i> should continue to stay at home and should not be expected to attend.</p> <p><i>Clinically vulnerable</i> (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at moderate risk from coronavirus. A minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category.</p> <p>Children who <i>live in a household with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable</i> and shielding should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child is able to understand and follow those instructions.</p> <p>Children who <i>live with someone who is clinically vulnerable</i> and including those who are pregnant, can attend.</p> <p>The definition of <i>clinically extremely vulnerable</i> and <i>clinically vulnerable</i> can be found at https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk-from-coronavirus/whos-at-higher-risk-from-coronavirus/</p> <p>Guidance on <i>shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable</i> can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19</p>

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		<p>Guidance on staying alert and safe (social distancing) can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing</p>
	<p>My child has asthma, do I need a letter from the GP to enable them to return to school?</p>	<p>Children with asthma will have been assessed by a medical practitioner and categorised as either : High risk (clinically extremely vulnerable). This is severe asthma and your child should have received a letter from their GP to shield and will not be expected to go to their childcare setting until their period of shielding ends, currently 30 June 2020 (date correct on 14th May 2020). Further guidance is expected for this group.</p> <p>Or moderate risk (clinically vulnerable)</p> <p>NB There are only two categories of asthma. Mild asthma does not exist. If your child has not received a shielding letter this means they are in a position to attend the setting and no further correspondence is required to confirm this, therefore GPs will not be issuing letters to inform settings.</p> <p>If parents are concerned that their child should not be attending the childcare setting due to their medical condition, they should visit their GP.</p>
	<p>I have chosen not to send my child back to school even though they are in one of the priority year groups, will I be fined?</p>	<p>Government guidance strongly encourages children and young people in the eligible year groups and priority groups to attend, unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence, such as shielding due to health conditions. However if you decide to not send your child to school, you will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.</p>

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	<p>My child usually travels on the bus to school, should they still do this?</p>	<p>Children, young people and parents are encouraged to walk or cycle to education or childcare settings, where possible. However for those who have to use public transport, the guidance for passengers on how to travel safely recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • keeping 2 metres apart from others wherever possible • wearing a face covering if you can. However, face coverings should not be worn by those who may find them difficult to wear, such as children under two or primary aged children who cannot use them without assistance, or those who may have problems breathing while wearing a face covering • using contactless payment where possible • avoiding rush hour travel where feasible • washing or sanitising your hands as soon as possible before and after travel • following advice from staff and being considerate to others <p>The full guidance can be found at www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers</p>
	<p>Further information</p>	<p>Guidance for Parents. www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june?fbclid=IwAR1xsoijR13uoUyLDCMtLSxqK_Ex-9opa7jyeoNbrkFngwWXbHFD6iJ3OzE</p>

