

## Social distancing - Additional prompts for educational settings 30.10.2020

This guidance should be read in conjunction with the councils Social Distancing and Making your workplace COVID secure guidance.

Minimising contacts and mixing between people reduces transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This is important in all contexts and schools must consider how to implement this. Schools must do everything possible to minimise contacts and mixing while delivering a broad and balanced curriculum.

The overarching principle to apply is reducing the number of contacts between children and staff. This can be achieved through keeping groups separate (in 'bubbles') and through maintaining the distance between individuals. These are not alternative options and both measures will help, but the balance between them will change depending on:

- children's ability to distance
- the lay out of the school
- the feasibility of keeping distinct groups separate while offering a broad curriculum (especially at secondary)

It is likely that for younger children the emphasis will be on separating groups and for older children, it will be on distancing. For children old enough, they should also be supported to maintain distance and not touch staff where possible.

The points to consider and implement are set out in the following sections in the [guidance-for-full-opening-schools](#)

1. How to group children
2. Measures within the classroom
3. Measures elsewhere
4. Measures for arriving at and leaving school
5. Other considerations

As much as possible, children, young people and staff should be spaced apart at all times this means:

- Supervises and monitor parents dropping children off and collecting from school
- Segregate access and egress, to maintain 2m spatial distance.
- Discourage parents gathering at school gates.
- Reducing the flow of people entering premises to include parents, carers and suppliers.
- Keep class sizes to a minimum according to staffing levels.
- Stagger lunch sittings, break times and the movement of pupils around school, maintain the 2m in queues and travel.
- Putting 2m guidelines on the floors in corridors and communal areas
- Consider activities undertaken such as PE, forest school, Drama and playtime. Can these activities be completed whilst maintaining the 2m spatial between pupils and staff?
- Encourage regular hand washing with soap and water throughout the day.
- Hand washing/sanitising on entering the premises.
- Avoid unnecessary staff gatherings. Conduct meetings in larger space such as school hall.
- sitting children at desks that are far apart on forward facing desks
- staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible
- ensuring everyone queues and eats further apart than normal
- keeping apart when in the playground or doing any physical exercise
- visiting the toilet one after the other

Social distancing measures should also be in place when providing meals, or food for collection, from families of free school meal pupils not in school.

See full details and further information in section 6 of the government guidance for schools [Guidance-for-full-opening-schools](#)

In schools that teach children in years 7 and above, where social distancing cannot easily be maintained, such as corridors and communal areas and it has been deemed appropriate in those circumstances that a face covering can be worn.

In primary schools where social distancing is not possible in indoor areas outside of classrooms between members of staff or visitors, for example in staffrooms, head teachers will have the discretion to decide whether to ask staff or visitors to wear, or agree to them wearing face coverings in these circumstances. But Primary school children will not need to wear a face covering

Based on current evidence and the measures that schools are already putting in place, such as the system of controls and consistent bubbles, face coverings will not be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible