

COVID - 19

The New Normal



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the symptoms of Covid - 19

If your child, or anyone you live with has any of the following symptoms, **do not send your child (or any siblings) to school.**

- A high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- A new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than one hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- A loss of or change in sense of smell or taste.

2. What if my child or anyone in the household has symptoms of Covid 19?

- You should get a test and follow the Guidance set out by the Public Health Agency. **You must not send your child to school.**

3. How will my child travel to school?

- If you live within walking distance to the school, we are advising that pupils walk.
- If you can arrange transport to and from school, in your private vehicle, that is also advisable.
- If your child has to use Public Transport, normal school transport will operate from Tuesday 1 September. It is **mandatory** that a face covering is worn by all persons aged 13 years and over if they are travelling on public transport (unless they are exempt for medical reasons).

4. What time will school start?

- Pupils are advised **not** to be on the school site before **8.30am**.
- Pupils should wash their hands at the washing station prior to entering the outdoor recreation zone.

5. Will my child need a school bag?

- Yes, all Sperrin pupils will be expected to **carry only one school bag**.
- Pupils will not be permitted to carry footballs / cards / games to school.

6. What resources will my child need for the school day?

- Due to strict hygiene regulations, children cannot borrow items such as pens. A List of resources required is on the school website in 'The New Normal' document.

7. Will my child be required to wear their normal School Uniform?

- Yes, Sperrin pupils should wear their normal school uniform.

8. Will my child be required to do PE?

- Yes, all Sperrin pupils will have PE Lessons. However, they will only need a pair of trainers (stored in a plastic bag) as the lessons will focus on light exercise and well - being. There will be no team games. This will be kept under review.

9. Will there be normal canteen services?

- The canteen service will be reduced. There will be no breakfast or break time service. There will be a reduced menu at lunch time. All pupils are advised to bring a healthy snack for break. Pupils are also encouraged to bring a packed lunch, where possible.

10. Will the normal teaching timetable run?

- Yes, all pupils will follow their normal class timetable.

11. What hygiene measures are in place?

- On arrival to school, all pupils will wash their hands and this will be a repeated discipline throughout the school day.
- Hand sanitising stations will be available at all classroom entrance and exit points.
- Children will be encouraged to practise good respiratory hygiene by following the 'Catch it, kill it, bin it' approach.
- Additional cleaning routines will form part of the school day.

12. Will my child be required to wear a face mask?

- If your child travels to and from school on school public transport or an EA taxi, it is **mandatory** to wear a face mask.
- Wearing a face mask will be encouraged, by both pupils and staff, especially when social distancing is difficult. Face masks should be logo and slogan free.

13. Will my child's class move from room to room?

- **At KS3**, Sperrin College will operate 'Class Bubbles', the location of which are detailed on Page 11 of the 'New Normal' guidance document. These rooms are known as 'Base rooms' and all lessons will be taught in these rooms.
- **At KS4/5**, pupils will move to all other available rooms for their lessons.

14. What are recreational 'Zones'?

- Each Year group ('bubble') will have a specific area for recreation known as a 'Zone'. Pupils are only permitted in their designation recreational zones, which will have toilets only for pupils in that 'bubble'. This is for track and trace purposes.

15. Will there be staggered exits at the end of the school day?

- Yes, the times of which are set out on page 22 of the 'New Normal' guidance.

16. How will I pay for my child's school meal?

- All parents are asked to sign up to Parent Pay as soon as possible. However, in this transition phase (Sep - Dec) pupils can still put money onto their school account using the machines in the refectory. However, all pupils will be required to clean their hands prior to use.

17. What do I do if I need to speak to a staff member about my child's education or a pastoral matter.

- **Parents and visitors will not be permitted into the school building.** All communication with staff should be carried out via telephone. Parents are advised to be aware that all teachers (including Year Heads) have full teaching timetables and may not be able to return calls until they are available. This may be the next day.
- There will be **no** face-to-face meetings.

18. What if my child or anyone in our household was/is in receipt of a shielding letter or is clinically vulnerable?

- Parents are advised to contact the school to discuss these specific issues with the Year Head.

19. Will there be any of the normal extra - curricular activities?

- No, there will be no extra - curricular activities or sport until further guidance is issued from DENI.

20. What if my child becomes ill at school?

- If your child becomes ill at school and it is unrelated to Covid -19, the First Aid Team will carry out their normal first aid procedures. They will be using full PPE.
- If your child becomes ill at school with Covid - 19 like symptoms, they will be placed in a secure area and you will be contacted to take them home. You will be required to take a **Covid test**, and **inform** the school of the results. The P.H.A. guidelines must be followed.