

September 2020 Return to School Common FAQs for Parents/Carers and Students

The situation surrounding Coronavirus and being back at school is fast-moving and constantly changing. Our aim is to ensure staff and students are well supported, well informed and kept as safe as possible.

We appreciate it is an anxious time for many and with our whole school risk assessment and planning over the summer, we have endeavoured, and continue to do our best, to ensure that returning to school will be an enriching and positive experience for The Beaconsfield School community.

Useful information:

- <https://www.beaconsfield.school/page/?title=Covid+19+Information&pid=364>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-for-schools-coronavirus-covid-19>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>

The FAQs are grouped as follows:

1. Attendance and Self-isolation
2. Reduction of Spread of Virus
3. Food at Break and Lunch
4. Uniform and PE days
5. Miscellaneous

Please note that these FAQs may not answer all of your queries or concerns. For further information or clarification, please email office@beaconsfield.school.

1. Attendance and Self-Isolation

My son/daughter is, or I am, feeling anxious, what can we do?

We know that this is a worrying time for us all. As long as we work together, we will get through this challenging time.

It is important that your son/daughter attends school every day. Please let your son/daughter's mentor or year leader know if they are really anxious or worried about anything at school and they will do their best to support them. Useful contacts can be found on the school website: <https://www.beaconsfield.school/page/?title=Contact+Us&pid=288>

Please also read our whole school risk assessment as this may help you understand the steps already taken to prevent the spread of the virus:

<https://www.beaconsfield.school/page/?title=Covid+19+Information&pid=364>

You may also access more support with regards to mental health online from;

- <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>
- <https://www.kooth.com/>

What do I do if my son/daughter is ill with Coronavirus, or has Coronavirus symptoms?

If students are feeling unwell with Covid-19 symptoms, they need to remain home and have a Covid-19 test by phoning 119.

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

In these circumstances your child, and anyone in your home, should self-isolate in line with government guidance.

Please refer to www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection

Please advise our attendance officer if the above applies and ensure you apply for a Covid-19 test for your son/daughter.

Please send proof of negative test result to matron@beaconsfield.school. Without proof, students may not return to school.

What do I do if my son/daughter is feeling unwell?

If students are feeling generally unwell with a cold/sore throat, they must also be kept at home and referred to your GP for advice. We are taking these precautions to safeguard our School community and ask that you respect these measures.

2. Reduction of Spread of Virus

My son/daughter has come home saying hallways are busy and it is impossible to socially distance – is this true?

As per Government guidance, as long as students are not within 1m+ for more than 15 minutes in an enclosed space, the risk of infection spreading is low.

Bearing the above in mind, and appreciating that The Beaconsfield School was not built for 2m distancing, to reduce the risk of being face to face we have designed a one-way system throughout the building. Our hallways are narrow, and this system ensures students all walk facing the same direction when going to, or leaving, lessons. Additionally, the school expects all students and staff to wear face coverings in corridors during lesson changeover and other more populated times to combat the social distancing issues.

Furthermore, at the beginning of the day students are lined up in designated year group areas and dismissed in smaller groups to limit flow into the building. After break and lunch, there is a staggered entry into the building to ensure the best possible flow under the circumstances. At the end of the day, students are dismissed one floor at a time, with students following the one-way system.

With all the queuing, my son/daughter is late to lessons and worried about getting in trouble. Will teachers' sanction late arrivals to lessons?

The one-way system, and staggered entry to the building, will mean that students sometimes are a little late for lessons. As long as students are genuinely late due to queuing and social distancing, students will not be given late minutes. It is important that students know where in the building their lessons are and choose their entrance point to the building accordingly to improve their chances of arriving to lessons on time. Mentors have shared the one-way system with students and will continue to do so.

How are students able to access toilet facilities?

Students are always allowed to use toilets at break and lunch. Toilets are located as follows:

- A floor – girls
- B floor – boys
- Ground floor – unisex toilets in locker area and disabled toilet by middle doors
- D block – boys
- Sports hall – boys and girls and disabled toilets

Students are asked to observe distancing within toilet facilities and to wait outside the toilet if it is busy. A maximum of 3 students in the toilets at any given time on the A & B floors as well as D block and Sports Hall are advised. The new unisex toilets in the locker area are open plan with floor to ceiling individual cubicles and therefore accommodate 5 and 7 students respectively.

It seems not all children are wearing masks inside the building. Is this true?

Every morning students are lined up in year group bubbles and a uniform and equipment check is carried out. Students are asked to put on their face coverings and any students found not to have one are brought to a student support officer who supply a washable face covering to them, in exchange for an item of value. This mask must be returned at the end of the day (the School washes these after a 72-hour quarantine and re-uses after they have been washed), and the student is asked to ensure they bring their own mask the following day.

Staff supervise break and lunch and if students are seen without face coverings inside the building, they are immediately asked to put one on. Persistent offenders will be sanctioned in line with the school Behaviour Policy.

Why do students have to wear masks if Buckinghamshire is a low risk area?

Schools that teach children in years 7 and above and which are not under specific local restriction measures have the discretion to require face coverings for students, staff and visitors in areas outside the classroom where social distancing cannot easily be maintained, such as corridors and communal areas and it has been deemed appropriate in those circumstances.

As the situation is ever changing, and at fast pace, and due to our narrow hallways, The Beaconsfield School made the decision to require the use of face coverings in certain circumstances (hallways and indoor spaces where social distancing cannot be guaranteed).

Wearing a face covering is therefore, for the time being, tied into our uniform and behaviour policies as well as our risk assessments; disciplinary action will be taken for anyone who does not follow them. We have made this request to safeguard the welfare of everyone in the school community.

Students who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment or disability, are excluded from wearing face coverings. Parents/carers are advised to email the Headteacher if this applies to their child. A medical certificate or GP letter will be required.

3. Food at Break and Lunch

How do students order food?

Most students should have brought home paperwork with individual QR codes on for a Fusion Pre-Order Food app. Please support your son/daughter in downloading this app onto either your or their phone. If you have more than one child at the school, use the code for one child first and ensure they are set up. Then log out of the app and complete the process again for any subsequent children from a different phone.

If you experience technical difficulties, please email finance@beaconsfield.school.

Once the app is operational (the aim is September 14th 2020), food can be ordered via the app 5 days in advance. **Food orders must be placed by 6pm the day before it is wanted.** Food cannot be ordered on the day itself.

On the day food is ordered for, it will be packaged and labelled with your son/daughter's name on it and distributed from a table in their designated year group bubble at their chosen time.

How do we pay for the food?

There are two ways to ensure there is sufficient money to order food on your son/daughter's account.

1. Y8-Y11 students can top up their accounts via the cash machine by the main hall – the machine is sanitised several times per day (as are student hands). Unfortunately, Y7 students will not yet have a fingerprint for the machine given the current environment.
2. Top up your son/daughter's account via parent pay. The app links to ParentPay and any funds topped up automatically appear within the Fusion App.

Students can check their remaining balances on the Fusion app.

My son/daughter is entitled to FSM – how do I ensure they receive a meal every day?

Until the pre-order fusion app is working (14th September being the aim), please email finance@beaconsfield.school and advise if your son/daughter would like a FSM lunch bag. Please advise if they would like meat/vegetarian option. Our food provider will ensure a lunch bag is provided to them. This will be handed out at lunch time in their designated year bubble area.

Once the app is working, the FSM balance will appear in their app and they can order food as other students.

Is your mobile phone policy still the same or can students use their phone at school to order/pick up their lunch?

Our mobile phone policy still stands. Food must be ordered by 6pm the evening before it is wanted and students will not be asked to show their order on their phones. If in doubt, hub staff may ask students to show a book or other form of ID before handing out lunch orders. Mobile phones and earphones (including similar items) should not be on the school site from the time students enter the school gates to the time they leave the gates.

4. Uniform and PE days

What are students allowed to wear to keep warm on PE days?

On a PE day, students must come to school in full PE kit (see school website for details) and remain in this all day as changing facilities are not currently permitted. In order to stay warm, as windows and doors are open to allow for optimal ventilation, students may wear the PE uniform fleece or a plain navy or black jumper over their PE kit. **Hooded tops are not allowed,** and students will be asked to remove these. Consistent refusal to remove hooded tops will incur sanctions as per our Behaviour Policy.

5. Miscellaneous

What are the changes to the detention system?

The detention system has changed to accommodate the necessity of year group bubbles. There will no longer be break or lunchtime detentions until further notice.

For sanctions which would have usually resulted in the above detentions, staff will contact families to ensure the student's action is corrected to follow our expectations.

If there is a repeat of the negative action, the Subject Leader may issue a one hour after school detention as a sanction. This will occur on a Friday from 2.45pm - 3.45pm and will be held in a room for their year group only.

If a student has two Subject leader detentions in a week (from Wednesday to Wednesday) they will be issued with a 2 hour after school detention as a sanction. This will occur on a Friday from 2.45pm - 4.45pm and will be held in a room for their year group only.

If a student has more than two Subject Leader detentions in a week, they will also be issued with a 2 hour after school detention as a sanction with additional actions taken by their Year Leader. The two hour detention will also occur on a Friday from 2.45pm - 4.45pm and will be held in a room for their year group only.

Year leaders will continue to hold Year Leader detentions on a Thursday after school from 2.45pm - 3.45pm and these will also be held in a room for their year group only.