

## **FAQs for parents regarding the wider opening of Greenfield**

### **Will my child's safety be prioritised?**

The safety of pupils, their families and staff is paramount. Every member of Greenfield staff will do their utmost to prevent this being compromised.

### **Will measures be in place to ensure all pupils are kept safe?**

We cannot guarantee that school can be made completely safe and we cannot completely prevent transmission of the Coronavirus. The government is continually providing extensive guidance which should reduce the risks. We are preparing risk assessments to reflect the guidelines and our staff will follow the procedures that are put in place. However, everyone accepts that children, particularly the youngest pupils, will find this extremely difficult. They generally touch everything and they want to hug and play with their friends. They have been in lockdown, secure in their homes and are ready to be 'set free'. They have little experience of maintaining a distance from others and it has not been necessary for them to continually wash their hands while they have been at home. In line with the government guidelines, we are changing the school environment and routines to help them stay as safe as possible. There will be a one-way system to get around the school to avoid pupils bumping into each other on the corridors. We will not be able to use the coat pegs on the corridors and pupils will need to keep any belongings from home (although these will have to be limited) with them. Pupils will clean their hands much more than usual and strict handwashing routines will mainly be supervised in the classrooms.

We will have stringent cleaning procedures – not just at the end of the school day, but during it too. To allow for this, we have stripped the classrooms of equipment that is not absolutely necessary. As we will have to thoroughly clean anything that has been touched, we are removing items that cannot be cleaned easily, such as soft toys and dressing up costumes and small toys such as Lego. The children will not be allowed to share their belongings. In the classroom, they will need to remain at their individual table and use only the equipment that has been issued to them. Pupils won't be able to change their reading books themselves (we would have to clean all the books between classes) but we will issue them with a book to be read in school.

In addition to hygiene, social distancing is key to preventing transmission of the Coronavirus. This is one of our key challenges as primary schools usually have many children in relatively small spaces. The government has indicated that more than half of pupils can be back in primary schools from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June – it does not take a mathematical genius to work out that we would not be able to accommodate that number of pupils AND maintain the required distance of 2 metres. Just because no one expects that young children can maintain social distancing, does not mean that we should actively discourage it. Children need clear guidelines and not mixed messages as they are not mature enough to make such decisions about when it is safe to distance and when it isn't. Through our survey, Greenfield parents have made it clear that strict social distancing must be in place. Although we cannot guarantee it, we can make sure it is possible. Therefore, while they are in class, pupils will be seated or have the space to enable them to be 2 metres apart. Our staff will also have enough space to maintain social distancing – just as they would in any other UK work environment. This week, we have removed unnecessary furniture out of the classrooms to enable us to have as many socially distanced seats/tables as possible. Typically, we are able to accommodate 8-9 pupils and one teacher per classroom. Only when the 2 metre requirement is reduced nationally, will we be able to safely accommodate more pupils.

### **Can young children understand the importance of following the protective measures?**

This will certainly be a challenge for them. Parents can begin to make sure their child understands the importance of the measures before they start back at school. This will be a huge focus for our teaching when they first start back and we will continually remind pupils throughout the day. We will review our behaviour policy to include adherence to the protective measures and praise and reward pupils for compliance. To ensure pupils understand, this will not be taken lightly, sanctions will be applied for deliberate non-compliance.

### **How will the school be able to ensure parents social distance at drop off/ pick up and times?**

We are putting measures in place to help parents maintain social distancing at these times. There will be staggered drop off and collection times for pupils which must be adhered to. Hill Street is very narrow, as is the entrance leading off there. We will therefore put in place a one way in and out system so that entry to school is via Greenfield Gardens and the exit is onto Hill Street. We will ask that only one parent brings their child to school and that they

walk where possible. We ask that Year 6 parents do not enter the playground and other parents leave as soon as they drop off/or collect their child. Year 6 pupils could arrive and walk home on their own but parents would need to give their child strict instructions about distancing etc on the way. Parents will not be able to go to the office or speak to the teacher and will need to contact us by telephone or ClassDojo. More specific details will be provided later. It's important to remember that everyone's safety is dependent on all members of the community adhering to the restrictions and measures that will be in place.

#### **Is it safe for children who have medical conditions such as asthma?**

If your child is classed as 'extremely clinically vulnerable' and has received a letter from the NHS advising them to shield, your child should stay at home. Asthma sufferers are classed as 'clinically vulnerable' and are at higher risk of severe illness from the Coronavirus. In this case, you should seek medical advice to check that it is safe for your child to come to school.

#### **Is it safe for my child to attend if we have a vulnerable family member at home? How can we be sure our child wouldn't bring the virus home?**

If someone in your household is classed as 'extremely clinically vulnerable' and has received a letter from the NHS advising them to shield, it would only be advisable for your child to attend school if stringent social distancing can be adhered to. As we have explained, no one expects that young children can maintain social distancing therefore attending school is not advisable. If someone in your house is 'clinically vulnerable', your child can attend school.

#### **We're worried about school staff – have you thought about their well-being? Will they be kept safe? Will they have PPE?**

The safety and well-being of our staff is hugely important and we will do our utmost to put measures in place to keep them safe as well as reassure them. Provided everyone (in the school school community) follows the procedures set out, the risks can be reduced for staff as they can for pupils. The government says that school staff do not need PPE except for providing intimate care or when looking after a pupil showing symptoms of the Coronavirus. In line with our risk assessment, PPE will be used on these occasions. However, the government admits that pupils will find it extremely difficult to maintain social distancing and adhere to the safety procedures. Staff will also find it hard not to comfort or support a child when they need it. In these circumstances, staff may feel that they are not safe and may particularly worry if they have medical conditions or a vulnerable relative at home. Therefore, PPE such as face masks, visors, gloves and aprons will be available to staff if it provides them with the reassurance they need.

#### **What if my child needs medical or first aid assistance?**

Staff will provide the care that pupils need. They will wear PPE where necessary and will adhere to the strict hygiene and safety procedures.

#### **Would my child be expected to wear a face mask?**

No, not at all. The government states that young children should not wear facemasks because not using them correctly may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. You may choose to send your child to school with a facemask. However, if your child does not use it correctly and puts others at risk, your child will be asked to remove it and not bring it to school again.

#### **Can you be 100% certain the virus won't get in school? Will my child catch the it?**

We cannot be 100% certain. The government says there is some evidence that pupils, staff and parents will be safe but they have not published this evidence yet. We understand that testing shows children are just as likely to catch the virus as adults and can transmit the virus too. There is strong evidence to show that children are less likely to suffer with the symptoms of the virus and are more likely not to show any symptoms at all. However, this makes it more difficult to know that a child has the virus and therefore, rather than self-isolating, a child may have more opportunity to transmit the virus to others. The government says that maintaining a safe distance (currently of 2 metres) and washing your hands frequently can reduce the risk. We will do our best to ensure these measures are maintained in school.

#### **What happens if staff or pupils become ill - will there be Covid testing?**

School staff, pupils age 5 years and over and members of their households can now be tested for Coronavirus if they are showing symptoms. Should a member of staff or pupil develop symptoms, they must not come to school. If they are at school they will be sent home immediately and cannot return until confirmation of a negative test. A pupil

who has developed symptoms will be kept in an isolated room until collected by a parent. If the staff member or pupil tests positive the rest of their class/group will be sent home and advised to isolate for 14 days.

**How much time will my child get in school? Will pupils be coming back full or part time?**

When we bring in more year groups we are proposing full time education (although we are still reviewing this for Reception pupils). We cannot have half days because we would not have time to deep clean between groups and this may increase the risk of transmission.

**Will my child be in their usual class with their usual class teacher?**

Not necessarily. As the children will be in small groups, it may not be possible for pupils to be with their usual class teacher or in their usual classroom. Some staff members may not be able to work with pupils for health reasons and will be supporting home learning. As there will not be enough teachers to cover all groups, teaching assistants will lead some. To keep transmission rates low, mixing is minimised and pupils have to remain with their group and, as much as possible, the adult assigned to them. Depending on the numbers coming to school, this may be very difficult and upsetting for Reception pupils in particular and we will be consulting with parents.

**What will a school day look like? What lessons will they have? Will school follow the usual routines so we can get back to normality?**

It looks like we all have to accept that our old 'normal' is no longer possible. For our safety, things need to and will change. We will continually be reviewing the possibilities of what we can do within the safety measures. For example, we won't be able to have whole school assemblies (even with less children) but we will have 'assembly' in the classroom. Pupils will have break times and lunchtimes – although they may eat their lunch in the classroom.

It is not possible, practical or safe to follow our full curriculum at this time. We will deliver lessons on English, maths and other subjects but these will not be a continuation of where we left off as all pupils will not have access. As we cannot share resources, there can be very little in the way of practical learning and without contact, PE will be extremely limited. Providing individual support and feedback will be limited. Ordinarily, Year 6 would be practising for a performance, preparing for leavers events and visiting secondary schools. Again, these are simply not possible; as is the case of planned school visits. We will look at what we can do (using technology perhaps) for all Year 6 pupils (including those at home) to enable them to say their final goodbyes to Greenfield. For Reception pupils, there are many fundamental areas of learning (such as social development and sharing) that could not be promoted and it will be hard for pupils to express and develop their creativeness. We are mindful that many pupils may need additional support for getting into routines etc or support for their mental health and these aspects will feature heavily in our provision.

**What will you provide for pupils who are not in school? Will the home learning provision be maintained?**

Many of you have told us that you are happy with the home learning provision and this has been effective. Ensuring *all* pupils are supported with learning and continue to progress is hugely important to us and will continue to be. The government has invested in online educational resources and has asked us to promote those but we will be very much continuing our provision on ClassDojo. With staff in school teaching groups, it might be hard to maintain at the same level, especially the amount of feedback we are giving to pupils. Therefore, we will make some adaptations and look at other ways to support this and ensure home learning is not neglected. We will continue to set work on a daily basis – in fact we will be setting the same work for home as we are for those in school to try and provide some consistency and fairness. Rather than setting work for individual groups or classes, we will be setting work and providing resources across a whole year group. For example, we would set the same work for all pupils in Year 6, regardless of whether they are at home or in school or which class they are in. We will make use of the government funded online resources too. In terms of the communication with class teachers, other teachers might be checking pupils work and sending feedback. However, each class teacher will continue to communicate and catch-up with their home learners regularly too.

**My child has special needs – would they get individual support?**

As teaching assistants will be leading groups, it is unlikely there will be enough staff to provide individual support. This would be difficult within the constraints of social distancing in any case. Class work will be adjusted for pupils with special needs to make it more manageable for them.

If your child has an EHCP, we would not be able to fulfil all requirements of their plans at this time. The SENCo will explain the support we can give to your child.

**Will my child be supported with transition to secondary school?**

We have already begun sharing information with the secondary schools and will work with them to support pupils as much as possible, using the technology available.

**My child has missed his/her friends – will they get to be or play together?**

With no school field, we have a relatively small outdoor space. To enable social distancing, there will be staggered playtimes for different groups of pupils. On the playground, pupils will stay with their small groups and they won't be allowed to mix with other groups or play any contact games. They won't be able to use play equipment and the climbing frame etc will be out of bounds as we would not be able to clean it between groups of pupils. We will therefore adjust the lengths of breaks and look for safe ways for them to burn off their energy.

**Will key worker children be with their class/year group – even if not same year group?**

The government says that in order not to increase the risk of transmission and to be able to track any infection, pupils must be kept with their group and they cannot be mixed. There will be no flexibility on this. Key worker children will stay in small groups but if their year group is in school, they will be with their year group.

**Will the kitchen be providing school meals?**

Due to having a small serving kitchen, it is not safe to provide hot school meals. Grab Bags will be provided free of charge for KS1 pupils and pupils who are entitled to free school meals. Grab Bags can be purchased for other pupils but these will need to be pre-ordered and paid for online. We will make provision for pupils who are not in school and are entitled to free school meals. Please note that free school meal vouchers are not being provided during the May half term holiday.

**Will my child need to wear uniform?**

Pupils are required to wear uniform. However, as clothes need to be washed following a day in a school, we accept that on occasion pupils may need to wear something different. It is also possible that a child may have outgrown an item of uniform and parents have not been able to replace it. In these instances, we ask parents to try to stick to uniform styles and colours wherever possible. Jeans, crop tops and football strips for example would not be acceptable. Although, we usually require pupils to bring in PE kits, this is not possible. Therefore, rather than their usual school shoes, we ask that pupils wear trainers or suitable shoes for running – that way we can ensure they can get some form of exercise at school.

**We have children in different year groups – will they all be able to come in?**

Unless a parent is a key worker, other siblings will not be able to come to school at this time.

**Will the pre-school be open?**

Greenfield Pre-school is a separate entity to our school. We have checked with the proprietor and there has been no decision to open at this time. This is mainly because there has been no demand for childcare and the situation could change after the 1<sup>st</sup> June. Please note, the Pre-School will be using the gate on Faulkner Close and not the main school entrance.

**Will before and after-school care be available?**

There will be no afterschool clubs and activities. GMGAC will only be available for key worker's children provided that they are not in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 when these pupils return. This is because pupils must stay with the same group all day and cannot be mixed. We would not have enough staff to be able to keep all the groups separate. If there were too many key worker groups requiring wrap around care, we might not be able to accommodate all of them. Additionally, if there were staff shortages, we may not be able to maintain wrap-around care.

**Do teachers feel confident school should open? Would they be happy to send their children to school?**

Parents need to make their own decision about whether to send their child to school. Hopefully we have provided enough information to help parents make an informed decision. Teachers are key workers and, like other parents in this group, may have no choice but to send their child to school. It is true that many teachers across the country have reservations about the safety of pupils, staff and parents. This is particularly the case where they feel social

distancing and safety requirements cannot be maintained or are actively discouraged. At Greenfield, we will do our best to adhere to these requirements and give our staff and parents the reassurances they need.

However, should parents feel that it is not yet the time to send their child back to school, they will not be penalised. Attendance is not statutory and parents will not be fined or prosecuted.