



# Reddish Hall School

Denstone Road, Reddish, Stockport SK5 6UY  
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[www.reddishhallschool.co.uk](http://www.reddishhallschool.co.uk)

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

At present, the government instruction is for special schools to return as planned for the start of the spring term, so we reopen to all year groups on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January at the usual time.

I appreciate that this is an extremely anxious time for all involved; parents, children and staff. We are doing our utmost to ensure we minimise the spread of the virus as much as possible. I'd like to go through with you some of the extra measures we are putting in place to reassure you, and ask you for your help.

We are looking to minimise the number of contacts a person has in a day. Before Christmas, pupils were in a key stage bubble. From tomorrow, for KS3 and KS2 pupils, we are asking them to remain in their class bubbles when inside the building, and to maintain a social distance when outside. This means that children's bubbles will have no more than seven children in them.

## **Transport**

Transport is arranged by local authorities and is outside of our control. Children have separate transport bubbles to that in school. Please check with your local authority transport team for any additional measures they may be putting in place.

## **Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9)**

KS3 children will be able to see their friends from other classes if they choose to go outside at break, but they must maintain a reasonable distance. If they choose to stay in at break, they will remain with only the people in their class in a classroom and won't be able to mix with children from other classes indoors, even if they share transport with them. Please discuss this with your child. We understand they will feel deprived, but we have to lessen the chances of the virus being spread.

Children in KS3 will eat lunch in their classrooms rather than in the hall. They will still move to their subject specialist classrooms with their teaching assistant, using a one way system in the hall. KS3 children will not go to the Lewis building for art; instead they will have the choice during that time of art activities, reading, or their own project.

KS3 will have two 45 minute sessions of PE in their class and won't join another group. This will be on the school site. We will look to promote exercise and fresh air when the weather allows. There may be some changes to subject teachers to try to lessen the number of people moving between buildings. Your child will be made aware of these on Tuesday, where period one will be a tutor period.



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## **Key Stage 2 (Years 4, 5 and 6)**

KS2 children will have lessons as normal. Their main difference will be at social times where they will only have breaks with children in their class. Most conflicts occur at break times, and we are seeking to reduce these to avoid close physical contact if a physical intervention is needed. Children will order their lunches in the morning and will no longer queue in the KS3 hall to choose.

## **Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)**

KS4 will continue to bubble as a whole. We have fewer students in KS4 than a mainstream secondary class would have in total, and we believe our students can make sensible decisions with socially distancing. This gives us the opportunity to continue to deliver options and core subjects as usual, which we know is in the best interests of the students' education. There will be no set independence breaks at present, however, staff may make a decision whether a student needs to get fresh air in order to get themselves ready for learning. PE for the time being will be done on site. Please ensure that your child is following the guidance outside of school so they minimise the risk of them bringing the virus into school.

## **How you can help**

Maintain social distancing measures as advised by the government. The example you set at home will help us enforce these in school. If children are allowed to mix with others outside of school, it is difficult to get them to understand why it's different in school. This also increases the risk of the virus being brought into school, other students having to self-isolate, and the risk of the virus being taken home to vulnerable parents or relatives.

Encourage your children to wear a face mask if they are in secondary, especially on transport.

Explain the importance of regular handwashing

Do not send your child in if they are unwell, if they display symptoms of COVID or anyone in your household does, or if they've been in close contact with someone who has had a positive test.

**Testing** is being set up in school in the next few days. Staff will be routinely screened, and this will be offered to children who would otherwise have to self-isolate if a positive case occurs with someone they've had contact with in school. We will write to you separately with how this will be carried out.

**For the time being** we ask you not to enter the school building unless it is by prior arrangement. All meetings will be conducted online. If you are collecting your child, we ask



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that you remain in your car and we will bring your child to you. We are unlikely to be able to have staff transport any child home

Last term we had only two positive cases, with a minimal amount of disruption. We know that the vast majority of our children prefer not to socialise and the vast majority of our families are anxious to stick to the guidelines around social distancing. We thank you wholeheartedly for this, and for helping to keep our school community safe.

I understand that everyone has their own personal circumstances and there are many anxieties at present from parents and staff alike, as well as children. It okay and understandable to be anxious.

We are here to support and help look after each other. If you would like to discuss things further, please do get in touch and we can look how we can help you.

Kindest regards,

Sarah Makin,  
Head Teacher