

MAYFIELD SCHOOL, MAYFIELD ROAD, PORTSMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE, PO2 0RH



FAQs – Bubble School – Parents and Pupils (15th June)

These FAQs supersede previous versions and reflect the latest guidance from Public Health England and The UK government. They are subject to change at short notice.

1. Why are children being taught in “bubbles”?

The scientific evidence suggests that the most effective way to stop the spread of the COVID 19 virus is for people to:

- maintain social distancing;
- regularly and thoroughly wash your hands with hot water and soap;
- avoid touching your face;
- always use a tissue if you sneeze and “bin it” straight away before washing your hands.

It will be much easier for our staff to support your child in these if they are in small and consistent groups. Also, by only having contact with a small group of children, the risk to our pupils and staff is significantly reduced.

2. Who will teach my child?

For Primary, your child is very unlikely to have their current teacher. “Class bubbles” will be run by qualified teachers or Primary Section Teaching Assistants. However, all children in existing classes will be allocated to “class bubbles” within their current class and not outside. Therefore, they are very likely to have a friend or two in their “bubble”. All of the planning for the lessons will be undertaken by an experienced and qualified teacher and additional planning time has been set aside to ensure that staff can prepare thoroughly.

For Year 10, your child will be taught by an English, mathematics or science specialist. Again, they are unlikely to have their current teacher.

3. How will you keep my child safe?

By operating in small “class bubbles” we are in a much better position to encourage children to follow the golden rules of hygiene:

- maintain social distancing;
- regularly and thoroughly washing your hands with hot water and soap;
- avoid touching your face;
- always use a tissue if you sneeze and “bin it” straight away before washing your hands.

However, we accept that, particularly, for our youngest children, we cannot guarantee that they will stay 2m apart, particularly during play times. We will do our best, but please do help us by sensitively explaining to your child that keeping in their bubble helps them and all of their friends to stay safe.

For pupils in Year 10, only 25% of the cohort will be able to come onto site each day and this provision will start from the 15th June. We have also amended our current behaviour policy to focus on some of the potential behaviour challenges that the current pandemic poses. You can view the amended behaviour policy on our website.

Our experience and that of other countries that have opened schools to a wider group of pupils is that the children very quickly adapt to the new routines.

4. Does my child have to attend “bubble” school?

We strongly encourage you to send your child, if they are eligible, to “key worker school” or “bubble school”. However, there will be no sanction against not attending. We will continue to set home learning tasks for children in “bubble school” which will build upon the work they do in their “bubble class”.

5. I am a key worker and the times of “bubble” school do not suit me. What should I do?

If you are eligible for “key worker school” and your child is in Primary or Year 10 then you must decide which provision you want your child to attend (you may only swap once from “key worker school” to “bubble school”), but they cannot attend both and cannot swap in and out. Currently, “key worker school” runs every day until 3:00pm or, optionally, 4:30pm for Primary aged pupils. There is a limit to the number of children we can accommodate in “key worker school” and if demand outstrips supply, we may have to limit numbers on any day with priority given to “frontline” workers and our most vulnerable children.

6. My child has additional support in class, will they still get this?

The maximum number of children in a “class bubble” will be 15. That means, their teachers can provide more support. If your child has an EHCP or is being considered for an EHCP we will also be running an SEN school. Our SEN team will be in touch with you directly about accessing this provision. Alternatively, email AndersE@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk if you wish to discuss this further.

7. What days is bubble school open?

Initially, we are running “bubble school” between 8:30am and 3:00pm as shown for children in our Primary Section:

Year 1 every Monday and Tuesday from 1st June;
Year R every Thursday and Friday from 4th June;
Year 5 every Thursday and Friday from 18th June;
Year 2 every Monday and Tuesday from 22nd June;
Year 3 every Thursday and Friday from 25th June;
Year 4 every Monday and Tuesday from 29th June;

We hope to be able to increase the number of days we operate “bubble school” as the Summer Term progresses (subject to Government Guidance). However, we feel that by opening gradually, we are better able to embed important routines and behaviours with all of our pupils. We are also mindful that many children may feel anxious and we wish to make sure that we have sufficiently small groups and dedicated staff on hand to comfort and support them.

All Year 10 pupils are expected to attend w/b 15th June as per the email sent to them. We have been advised that no more than 25% of the cohort should come onto the school site at any one time.

If you have any questions about Year 10, then please email:

Year10f2f@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

8. When and where do I have to drop my child off and pick them up for bubble school?

In order to establish our hygiene routines and provide comfort and support to every child, we will need a phased introduction to “bubble school” as follows:

Year 1 every Monday and Tuesday from 1st June;
Year R every Thursday and Friday from 4th June;
Year 5 every Thursday and Friday from 18th June;
Year 2 every Monday and Tuesday from 22nd June;
Year 3 every Thursday and Friday from 25th June;
Year 4 every Monday and Tuesday from 29th June;
Year 10 from 15th June.

Year 1 and 5 children should be dropped off between 8:30am and 9:00am. A staff member will meet you at the Junior Gate on Mayfield Road (nearest the new build) and explain the arrival procedure for dropping off and picking up. However, in summary:

- Only one adult will be allowed on to the school site to drop off or pick up a child;
- We will apply anti-bacterial lotion to the hands of the children as they come into the building;
- A “one way” system will be in place to stop overcrowding;
- The person dropping off or picking up should be:

Over the age of 16 and not on the roll of a school;

Be aware of the child’s unique password;

Spend as little time on the site as possible – we are sorry but we cannot stop for a chat – if you have any questions then please email:

bubble@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

Year 3 and 4 children should be dropped off between 8:30am and 9:00am. A staff member will meet you at the Infant Section Gate on Mayfield Road and explain the above procedure.

Year R (this is different to previously stated) and 2 children should be dropped off between 8:30am and 9:00am. A staff member will meet you at the Green Infant Reception Gate on Mayfield Road and explain the above procedure.

Year 10 pupils should arrive via the Senior Section entrance on Hewitt Road at the following times:

Pupils should arrive from 9am - not earlier

For our children in our Primary Section, “bubble school” finishes at 3:00pm and children should be collected by 3:30pm at the very latest from the drop off areas outlined above. We will organise a queueing system to ensure social distancing and therefore ask that you please leave extra time for dropping off and picking up.

9. I have more than one child at Mayfield, can they all attend “bubble” school?

If children are eligible for “key worker school” or “bubble school” then “yes”. If not, then we are very sorry, but we cannot accommodate children outside of these provisions. As an example:

If you have a child in Year 3 and 7, then we can, at the moment, only allow the younger child into “bubble school”.

If you are a “key worker” and have children in Year 4 and 8, then both can come to “key worker school”.

10. What will my child learn in “bubble” school?

For children in our Primary, a qualified teacher will plan all lessons and there will be a strong focus on Reading, Writing and developing children’s social skills. The first few lessons will be about establishing the following golden rules of hygiene:

- maintain social distancing;
- regularly and thoroughly washing your hands with hot water and soap;
- avoid touching your face;
- always use a tissue if you sneeze and “bin it” straight away before washing your hands.

A significant portion of the day will be spent outdoors, so please make sure your child is sent in with a coat if the weather isn’t good or you apply sunscreen if the weather continues to be sunny. We will also set home learning tasks for the days your child is not in “bubble school”. These will build upon the work they have done.

For pupils in Year 10, we will run a carousel of English, mathematics and science according to a published timetable. This will be complemented with “Online Teaching Sessions”.

11. Can I choose which “class bubble” my child will join?

“No”, sorry. Our staff will allocate children to “bubbles”. For children in our Primary Section, we will ensure that there is an appropriate mix of pupils to ensure that we can embed our golden rules of hygiene and new ways of working. However, all children in existing classes will be allocated to “class bubbles” within their current class and not outside. Therefore, they are very likely to have a friend or two in their “bubble”.

For Year 10, we have formed groups based on the restriction that only 25% of pupils can be on the school site.

12. If I decide not to send my child to “bubble” school, will I lose my place at Mayfield?

“No”. We strongly encourage you to send your child to “bubble school”. However, we understand some families may not wish to use this provision. No family will be sanctioned for not sending their child in. If your child is “clinically extremely vulnerable” or living in a household with a person who is “clinically extremely vulnerable” then they will be supported directly by our SEN team.

13. How do I sign up my child for “bubble school”?

All Year 10 pupils should attend on the day we have indicated. There is no need to sign up, please just arrive by 9:00am to the minibus gate on Hewitt Road.

For Primary aged children, we are asking that you sign up using the school’s online booking system for the final block running from Monday 29th June until Tuesday 21st July:

Year 5 and Year 2 sign up: Opens at 9:00am on Friday 12th June and closes at 6:00pm on Tuesday 16th June

Year 3 and Year 4 sign up: Opens at 9:00am on Friday 19th June and closes at 6:00pm on Tuesday 23rd June

Year R and 1 sign up: Opens at 9:00am Sunday 21st June and closes 6:00pm on Wednesday 24th June;

14. I have children in Years 7, 8 or 9. When can they go back to school?

It is our ambition to provide all pupils the opportunity to spend some time with their teachers before the Summer Holiday. We are very keen to reopen to Year 7, 8 and 9 and are making extensive preparations to achieve this. However, we have to wait for the UK Government to allow this. As soon as we have received the ‘all clear’ from the DfE we will share our plan with you.

15. My child has a health issue. Do I need to still send them to school?

The Government has published the following definition for “clinically extremely vulnerable” people:

1. Solid organ transplant recipients.
2. People with specific cancers:
 - people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy
 - people with lung cancer who are undergoing radical radiotherapy
 - people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
 - people having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
 - people having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
 - people who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
3. People with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe chronic obstructive pulmonary (COPD).
4. People with rare diseases that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell).
5. People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection.
6. Women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired.

If your child meets any of the above criteria, then they should not come to school and must be “shielded”. We will offer direct support to any family for whom this is relevant. Please let us know by emailing Mrs. Erika Anders on the address below to alert us:

AndersE@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

Equally, if any family member needs to be “shielded”, your child should not come to school and again, please contact Mrs. Anders and we will support you directly.

If you are unsure about any underlying health matters. Then please contact your GP for medical advice.

16. Will my child or their teacher need Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as a mask?

“No”, this is not normally recommended. The Government’s Guidance around PPE for child and staff is as follows:

Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings. Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. Face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way;
- if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.

17. What equipment do I need to send in?

All children attending “bubble school” will be required to wear the school uniform (although we have relaxed the rules around wearing a blazer). We have a selection of pre-loved uniform items which can be purchased from the school shop. This will be open every day that “bubble school” is open and can be accessed via the school’s Main Reception between 3:00pm and 4:00pm.

Each child will be provided with a stationary pack, free of charge. These will be kept at school in a plastic zip wallet. Pupils may choose to leave their tie in the pack overnight and take home for washing at the end of term (Tuesday 21st July).

Pupils in Year 10 should bring in their own equipment which they cannot share.

18. Does my child need a PE kit?

No. We are looking to minimise the amount of clothing we require children to wear to minimise the risk of transmission between home and school.

19. What about food and drink?

Children in Years R to 5 will be provided with a healthy morning snack such as a piece of “peelable” fruit and a drink. They will also get a free school lunch. Snacks and lunch will be brought to the “class bubble”. Children will not be able to access the canteens or socialise outside of their “bubble”. Each class base has a plentiful supply of water and paper cups.

Pupils in Year 10 may bring a healthy snack and drink. We will provide a free school lunch to those that are eligible on a “grab and go” basis.

20. Can my child bring in a packed lunch?

“No”. We are asking parents and carers to support us by encouraging your child to take the free hot meal provided. This is to:

- Reduce the risk of transmission of the virus on surfaces between home and school;
- Minimise close interaction between staff and pupils;
- Support us in the logistics of running the school.

We have made sure the menu for the rest of term is very child friendly and this has proved very popular so far. Parents can, of course, pick up their child for lunch. To do this, please email:

bubble@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

or

kws@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

21. What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus at school?

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self – isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an educational or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class/group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class/group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the child or young person's cohort or in the wider education or childcare setting, Public Health England's local Health Protection Teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases, a larger number of other children and young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure - perhaps the whole class, site or year group.

Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

22. What are the symptoms of coronavirus?

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)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above you must stay at home and arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19

23. What happens if my child falls ill during the school day?

We are following the latest guidance which states:

If anyone in an education or childcare setting becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).

If your child is awaiting collection, we have converted the interview room in the Main Reception to act as an isolation area for children with symptoms of coronavirus. A staff member will be with them at all times to provide care and comfort. They will be wearing PPE to reduce the risk of transmission and may ask your child to wear PPE, such as a face mask, if this is appropriate. We ask that if we do contact you to pick up your child, you arrive as quickly as possible. Also, please book a test and inform us without delay of the result so that we can take the necessary steps to keep other children and staff safe.

24. Will I be informed if there is a suspected case of coronavirus in my child's "bubble class"?

"Yes". We will inform parents if a child or member of staff closely associated with a particular "bubble class" is sent home with the symptoms of coronavirus. In these circumstances, we will ask the parent or staff member to undertake a test and, if they test positive, we will close the bubble.

Our actions will always be:

- **swift** – if we have a suspected outbreak, we will inform all members of the “bubble school” immediately. However, only the “bubble class” impacted will need to self-isolate. All other “bubble classes” can continue, following a deep clean of the school;
- **transparent** – rather than allow rumour to swirl, we will make an announcement to all members of “bubble school”;
- **supportive** – we will always comfort and advise families impacted by this virus;

We will, of course, never share the name of a child or staff member who has a suspected case of coronavirus and would urge all of our community to refrain from any speculation nor request this information.

25. Will children have their temperatures taken every day?

“No”. At this stage, there is no evidence to suggest that this is required. We have purchased additional “no touch” thermometers and can use these if the guidance from the Government changes.

26. Will KS1 SATs, Year 1 phonic check and the EYFSP still take place?

“No”. The Government have confirmed that all assessments such as these including GCSE and A Level will not take place in 2020. Please rest assured that we are sharing our internal data between staff so that when your child moves into their new class in September, the teacher clearly understands their strengths and areas for development.

27. When will I find out about the arrangements for September such as the name of my child’s new teacher?

Behind the scenes, the staff at Mayfield are working closely together to be ready for September. As yet, the Government has not confirmed the arrangements under which schools will run in the new academic year. As soon as we know, we will share this information with you.

28. Will the school be open in the Summer to catch pupils up?

We hope to run a Summer School, but this will not be available to every child since we typically only have limited staffing capacity. Further details about how this will operate will be published in July. One of the great advantages of being in an “all through” school is that we offer an extended school day and transition issues are less significant – we know our children very, very well. Therefore, we are in a uniquely excellent position to help pupils catch up for the time “lost” during lockdown.

29. Will the school be offering “online teaching”?

Yes. We are hoping to begin to offer “online teaching sessions” in the near future. These will be communicated via social media or in a school email.

30. Will Breakfast, Extra - curricular and Teatime Clubs run?

We will not be able to offer any of these provisions for children in “bubble school”. This is because the children in different “bubbles” cannot mix.

However, for pupils in “key worker school”:

Breakfast Club will run for children in Years R, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 from 7:45am to 8:45am and can be booked via ScoPay. Pupils accessing “key worker school”, but signed into Breakfast Club are welcome onto the school site from 8:30am and should congregate on the Tennis Courts – always observing the golden rules of hygiene.

For pupils in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 the “key worker school” will finish at 3:00pm. We will continue to offer a 3:00pm or 4:30pm finish for children in Years R, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. The Tea time club will run as normal from the 1st of June between 4:30pm and 6:00pm and can be booked via ScoPay.

31. Is Little Sunbeams open?

Please contact:

sunbeams@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

If you have any questions about their provision.

32. I have a question which has not been covered here. Who can I ask?

If there is a question you think we have not covered, please email us on:

bubble@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

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