



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) – Parents

To ensure the safety of students and staff, we will be practising strict social distancing and employing regular opportunities for frequent hand-sanitising.

Please contact the academy if you have any further questions or queries www.enquiries@wathacademy.com

This FAQ document will be updated as and when needed.

Minimising risks

Has there been a risk assessment?

A comprehensive risk assessment has been completed which takes into account our local context, government guidance and feedback from professional associations. The **September 2020 full opening plan and risk assessment** can be found on the academy website.

How will social interaction be restricted?

- **Bubbles/groups:** In order to restrict social interaction, students will be working in 'bubbles'/groups, in order to reduce interaction with other students. We will be restricting the movement of students around the building to the minimum to successfully deliver the curriculum. Students will then be based in separate year group locations before school, at break time and at lunch time. Each of these areas includes designated toilets and an outside space. On entry to the school, students will be directed to the relevant location.
- **One-way system:** Students will be rigorously required to follow a one-way system and strict social distancing around the building to reduce the possibility of unnecessary interaction with other students. A clear one way system will be in place and followed at all times to ensure social distancing on the corridors. This system will be taped to the floor on all corridors and staircases.
- **Lanyards:** Students in different year groups will wear different coloured lanyards in order to make it clearer for staff when rigorously over-seeing any movement of students around the building. Students will be given a new lanyard in September. There will be a different coloured lanyard for each year group. Students should arrive on the first day with their existing red lanyard.
- **Staggered movement:** Movement around the building will be staggered. Movement times around the building will be staggered at the start of the day and at all transition points.
- **Extensive 'active support':** An extensive 'active support' team will be in place on all corridors during lessons, lesson change over, breaks and lunches.
- **100 minute lessons:** Students will remain in consistent teaching classrooms for much longer periods of time (100 minutes lessons) in order to reduce the necessity for movement around the building.
- **Start and finish times:** Start and finish times will be staggered slightly with a variety of year group specific entrances to further reduce the opportunity for students to mix across year groups.

How will the academy be kept clean?

There will be 2 reactive cleaners at all times. In each of these areas, cleaners will disinfect and wipe down all surfaces in these high frequency areas:

- In toilets, at least once an hour.
- Stair railings, entrances to the buildings, lifts and staffroom offices.
- Entrance to classrooms (both door handles etc) at break, lunchtime and at the end of the day.
- Classroom desks (at break, lunchtime and at the end of the school day). This includes keyboards and mouse devices.
- Break and lunch locations before, during and after break and lunchtimes (this is undertaken by the catering team).



All classrooms, social spaces and corridors will have adequate lidded bins. There will be an enhanced schedule for bins to be emptied and disinfected. The SLT will schedule checks during each day on stocks of cleaning materials to check there is adequate supply.

Will hand sanitiser be available?

Upon entering school, students will use a hand sanitiser in their year group's designated morning location. At the end of the school day, students will be asked to use the hand sanitiser before leaving their final lesson.

There will be hand sanitiser available for students on every desk in every classroom. All students and staff will sanitise hands at the start and end of every lesson.

How will the importance of hand-washing be promoted?

All students will be reminded of expectations in an assembly (within bubbles) on the first day.

All students and staff will be reminded to wash their hands before and after visiting the toilet, coughing/sneezing and having a meal.

Teaching staff and PYLs/AYLs/Senior Team who visit classes will remind everyone to sanitise hands. All students will receive regular reminders on effective handwashing routines – including using videos during registration and on large screens in social areas.

The school will deploy posters that remind pupils and staff about the importance of catching a cough or sneeze in tissue, disposing of the tissue and washing hands, particularly on large screens and by washbasins/toilets and at entry/exit points.

All staff and students will use hand sanitiser or will wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and running water after any contact with someone who is unwell. The area around the person with symptoms will be cleaned with normal household disinfectant.

The SLT will schedule checks during each day on stocks of hand sanitiser, soap and paper towels to check there is adequate supply.

Which toilets will be open?

All toilets in the building will be open. Reactive cleaners will be in place throughout the day to clean the toilets regularly. All teachers will have a radio. Students will be escorted to the toilet by a member of the 'active support team'.

At social times students may only use the toilets in their designated areas. Following each social time, the reactive cleaners will clean the toilets to enable them to be used by students in any year group in the following lesson.

Will Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) need to be worn?

Students and staff will wear a face covering if using the bus to travel to and from school. Once in school, students will not be required to wear a mask. The school will deploy masks around school in order to ensure that these are available for use when staff are not able to maintain social distancing (e.g. providing intimate care, one-to-one learning support). Please refer to the risk assessment for more circumstances where a mask might be worn.



What happens if a student displays symptoms during the school day?

Anyone displaying symptoms will be sent home immediately (or as soon as possible) and asked to book a test. They will be asked to inform the school of the result.

If a pupil tests negative and if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to COVID-19, they can stop self-isolating and return to school.

If a pupil tests positive, they should continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms. They should only return to school if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of sense of smell or taste (anosmia). This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone.

What happens if someone in a student's household has symptoms?

The household should self-isolate and the member of their household should get a test. If the member of the household tests negative, the student can stop self-isolating and can return to school. If the household member tests positive, the student should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days from when the member of their household first had symptoms.

Where will a student have to wait to be collected if they have symptoms?

A student with symptoms awaiting collection will be isolated and kept at a distance of 2m from the supervising staff member in the meeting room across from finance. PPE will be worn if distancing of 2m or more from the symptomatic student is not possible or there is a risk of contaminated bodily fluids.

The classroom environment

What changes have been made to the timetable?

Rather than having 6 x 50 minute lessons per day, students will have 3 x 100 minute lessons per day. This will rotate on a two-week timetable so that students will still receive their normal timetable over a two week period. This will minimise the amount of movement each day and ensure all students will still receive a broad and balanced curriculum. Students will do non-contact sports in PE.

Given the timetable changes, when should registers be completed?

A register will be taken at 8:40 each morning (during Lesson 1, using the Lesson 1 SIMs register) for all students and at the start of the afternoon lesson (Lesson 3). The school will follow the DfE guidance on absence codes for students who fail to attend school.

How will safety be promoted in the classroom?

All classroom windows should be left open during the lesson unless it disrupts the learning. All classroom doors should be kept open at all times, using the door wedges. All classrooms will be provided with antibacterial wipes for teachers to use on the keyboard, screen and mouse before and after each lesson (in addition to the disinfection carried out by cleaners). Students can wipe down their desk and chair at the start of every lesson.

When teaching, teachers should be at least 2m from students, avoid movement and stay near the screen. Group activities and any close contact between individuals should be avoided.

An extensive 'active support' team will be in place every lesson, patrolling the corridors.



How will resources (e.g. stationary and equipment) be managed?

Students and staff will be prohibited from sharing any belongings, including stationery. There will be a stock of new stationery available for students who forget. Students will take this stationery home.

When giving out resources in lesson (e.g. textbooks, exam papers, table tennis bat), these may be shared within the bubble (ideally, within the class itself). However, such resources may not be shared with students in other year groups until and unless they are disinfected, wiped down with antibacterial wipes or they are left for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastic).

Where topics in a subject require specialist equipment (e.g. table tennis bat, paintbrushes, musical instrument etc) across year groups, the scheme of work should be revised to allow topics to be delivered in a different sequence. For example, painting may be delivered to Year 7 during the first half-term and then to Year 8 in the second half-term. Alternatively, equipment must be disinfected/thoroughly wiped down between use.

Will homework continue to be set?

Homework will continue to be set in the usual way via the Satchel:One app. Teachers should, where possible set work which doesn't require a physical hand in (e.g. in-built retrieval quizzes) or where the students can stick their homework in their own book.

Will students work continue to be marked?

Staff will disinfect/sanitise their hands before and after marking books/tests/scripts. Students will be using hand sanitiser at the start and end of every lesson.

Will students be able to access the library?

The library will be developing its e-reading and booking/request system. In addition students will have a designated day each week to use the Library e.g. Monday Y7, Tuesday Y8. Returned books will be stored for 48 hours.

Behaviour

How will behaviour be managed?

As previously communicated, the academy's behaviour policy has been updated to respond to the unique circumstances of the Covid-19 outbreak. The safety of students is of paramount importance and therefore students should expect to receive the appropriate consequence if there is any breach of the behaviours outlined as Covid-19 in the updated behaviour policy.

Our conduct card system will not operate in September. We will review this on a weekly basis.

Detentions will operate as per school policy although the spaces employed will allow for the appropriate social distancing of students.

If a student receives a C3 consequence the teaching member of staff will radio for active support and the student is escorted to the removal room. The student will also receive a 30 minute detention the next day. If the C3 consequence breaks down whilst the student is in the removal room. The student will be escorted to the consequence room for the remainder of the lesson. The student would also receive a one-hour detention the next day.



Uniform, attendance and arrival

Do students have to wear full school uniform?

Students will be expected to wear full school uniform. The national government has made it very clear that it is safe for students to attend school in their uniform and that this will not need to be washed on a daily basis. Students will be able to wear a face mask in school if they wish (this must be plain/bland in colour, no logos or extreme colours). This is not a government requirement, but we understand how some students and their parents might feel more confident in attending by wearing a face covering

What are the expectations regarding student attendance?

Government guidance has made it very clear that it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise the possible longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks students falling further behind. This means from September the usual rules on school attendance will apply. The school will follow the DfE guidance on absence codes for students who fail to attend school.

What will happen if a student is self-isolating at home?

Students who are isolating at home (because they or a member of their household are symptomatic or tested positive) will access learning from home if well enough to do so. This will be via Satchel:One.

Are the school buses running?

National government guidelines are to avoid public transport unless there is no alternative and to encourage the consideration of alternative travel arrangements. If active travel (such as walking or cycling) is not an option, please plan your child's journey in advance and remember to allow more time, as travel may take longer. If you plan to drop your child off in a car, please consider dropping them off within a suitable distance from the school to avoid congestion. Space on the commercial public transport network is severely limited, with only around 45% of pre Covid-19 space available. It can't therefore be guaranteed that a space on a usual public service route will be available for your child.

South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTe) is continuing to liaise with Marsland Travel, who operate the two buses which directly use the academy site. Marsland's have confirmed that the 648 and 649 will be operating as previously. They will now be closed to the public, which means that they will be able to carry a full complement of students without social distancing. SYPTe are looking to provide an additional service, 621 from Goldthorpe/Bolton, throughout the first weeks. We will be in touch again as soon as the details are finalised.

621	TBC	New school service from Goldthorpe/Bolton
648	Marsland	Service will operate as normal (but not available to the public)
649	Marsland	Service will operate as normal (but not available to the public)

SYPTe will continue to update the academy based on the most current government guidance and we will of course pass this information on to you.

If students are travelling to school by car, this should only be with adults within their own household. We recognise that this may present problems for some students and families in attending school.

What are the arrival and entry to site arrangements from Thursday 3 September?

From Thursday 3rd September all students should arrive for **8:25am**.



Once main school students arrive, they should report immediately to their designated registration venue:

- Students in Years 12 and 13 should enter the site via the **bus turning circle gate** and then use the **back door of the 6th form study area** to enter the building
- Students in Year 11 should enter the site via the **bus turning circle gate** and then use the **stairs to walk down to the canteen**
- Students in Years 7 and 8 should use the **Festival Road entrance**
- Students in Years 9 and 10 should enter the site via **the two main Sandygate pedestrian entrances**.

How will tutor time be delivered?

Tutor time content will be delivered by the student's Period 1 teacher. This eliminates the need for movement between tutor time and lesson one.

Where 6th form students don't have a Lesson 1 (old Period 1 or 2) they will register prior to 8:20 in the 6th form study area on a paper register (the 6th form team will be aware of these students each day). These students will be assigned, in advance, a classroom to go to at 8:20 to receive the tutor time aspect of Lesson 1. Following this they will then return to the 6th form study area to complete independent study.

Will assemblies still take place?

Individual year group assemblies will still take place; these will be strictly in line with government guidance as students will be in their year group 'bubbles'. All assemblies will be in their designated venue at the allocated time (start of Lesson 1) with students from the same year group only.

There will be no assembly of students from different year groups. House assemblies will be live streamed into tutor time).

Year group locations

Where are the locations for each year group?

Students will be based in separate year group locations before school, at break time and at lunch time. Each of these areas includes designated toilets and an outside space.

On entry to the school, students will be directed to the relevant location.

The locations are:

- Years 12 and 13 – 6th Form Study Area
- Year 11 – Canteen
- Year 10 – Main Hall
- Year 9 – Year 8/9 Social Area
- Year 8 – PE Gyms
- Year 7 – PE Sports Hall

How will lunchtime run?

Each zone will have its own serving arrangements. Food (including hot food) will be available in each zone at lunch time. Packed lunches will be allowed. Hot plated food will not be available. Other hot and cold food will be available in all locations.

Food will be served in all 6 locations:

- Years 12 and 13 – 6th Form Study Area
- Year 11 – Canteen



- Year 10 – Main Hall
- Year 9 – Year 8/9 Social Area
- Year 8 – PE Gyms
- Year 7 – PE Sports Hall

Will students be required to use their fingerprints to access their lunch money?

Ideally students will use their finger. Wipes and sanitiser will be next to each station. Each year group has its own location so there should be much shorter queues.

How will the end of the day be staggered?

The day will end at the following times for different year groups:

- Years 11, 12 and 13 – 14:45
- Years 9 and 10 – 14:40
- Years 7 and 8 – 14:35.

How will the corridors be managed?

Students must not congregate in corridors. Movement times around the building will be staggered at the start of the day and at all transition points. Students will move around the corridors in ‘bubbles’.

A clear one-way system will be in place and followed at all times to ensure social distancing on the corridors. This system will be taped to the floor on all corridors and staircases.

Reception / visitors

Will visitors be allowed on site?

Visitors can still enter the academy if they have made an appointment. However, if any visitor turns up without an appointment, active support will be radioed to see them at the gate and resolve or bring them in.

Parents should avoid coming to the school reception unless their child has a medical need or other vulnerability.

Are students allowed to go to the Medical Room/Student Reception?

Only genuine first aid issues will need to be dealt with. No students will be able to go on the corridor unsupervised. All teachers will have a radio and will radio for active support if necessary. The active support team will not bring students to reception unless their issue is genuine.

Can students who might need to call home (e.g. because they have forgotten something) use their mobile rather than the school phone?

In accordance with the academy policy. All students’ mobile phones should be switched off and stored in their bag. If a student needed to phone home, they could use their own mobile under staff supervision in the student reception.

Will parents be allowed to drop off things students have forgotten e.g. lunch/books/work?

There will be a box in reception to deposit specific items for collection. A box of disposable gloves will be available if staff want to use this to accept an item or pick an item out of the box.

Will parents’ evenings still take place?

The school is looking at solutions for it to be able to run effective parents’ evenings. More information will follow.



Will the Year 6 open evening go ahead in October?

The school will be engaging with Year 6 parents in a variety of ways during September and October.

This will include:

- Virtual online tour – video.
- Letter, prospectus and Enrichment brochure sent out early September.
- Parents will be able to book a tour of the academy during the September/October at a time that suits them e.g. during the school day or in the evening.
- In school presentation by the senior team. This will be done on several nights rather than one big evening.

Day to day expectations

What are the day to day expectations for students?

When attending school, students must follow the rules and expectations outlined below. This will help to maintain the health and wellbeing of everyone in our school and wider community.

- Students should attend school unless you and all members of your household have Covid-19 related symptoms
- Bring your own equipment everyday.
- Do not share belongings (stationery, food etc) with others.
- Wear a mask or face covering if using the school bus or public transport.
- Arrive to school and leave to go home at the designated time. Do not congregate in school at the end of the day.
- Use a sanitiser to disinfect hands on entering and leaving school and at the start and end of each lesson within the day.
- Stick to your year group locations in the morning, at break time and at lunch time.
- Maintain social distancing when moving to and from lessons. No overtaking or crossing. Follow the one way system.
- Avoid physical contact at all times. No hugs, shaking hands etc. Maintain as much distance from others as possible.
- In the classroom, do not move the table or chair. Avoid touching displays and other surfaces. Wipe specialist equipment before and after use.
- At break and lunchtimes go your designated area. Maintain a safe distance from others.
- Use only the toilets to which you are escorted to by 'active support'.
- During lesson time avoid being on the corridor unless supervised by an adult.