

# QUICK GUIDE

FULL OPENING OF MITRE SCHOOLS



**MITRE**

MARCH 2021

# THE HEADLINES

The government has announced that all schools will welcome back the whole school population from the week beginning **Monday 8th March 2021**. As a group of schools we are looking forward to recommencing an in-person education for all our pupils and students, as we believe this supports the best learning, a wider range of enrichment opportunities and the well-being of the whole community.

The guidance issued by the government is extensive and is clear about the continuation of efforts to keep children and adults in school safe by implementing a wide range of additional measures. We ask for the support of families in helping us to implement our arrangements. Working together means we can help with wider efforts to stem the spread of COVID-19 both within schools and through the wider community.

To access the full government guidance please use this link:

[Government schools operational guidance March 21](#)

All MITRE schools are working to be ready and welcome back more pupils and students. We are updating risk assessments, reviewing arrangements and getting everything ready onsite. Many of the arrangements will be familiar to you as they are very similar to those that have come before but there are some new considerations, particularly in secondary schools.

This guide aims to provide you with a quick point of reference and covers the main points from the government guidance and how you can help your child to be ready for their return. It should be considered alongside the specific arrangements that will be shared by each individual MITRE school.

Thank you for your ongoing support in such complicated times. If you have any concerns please make contact with your child's school and they will do their best to help.

*Matthew Parris*

CEO

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## FACE COVERINGS

In secondary schools all children will be expected to wear a face mask inside the buildings, including in lessons (unless individuals are able to be 2m apart). If there is a particular reason why your child cannot wear a mask please let your school know. This arrangement is likely to remain in place until Easter.

Students do not need to wear a face covering when they are outside.

In primary schools pupils do not need to wear a face covering.



## HAND CLEANING

Pupils/students will be supported to clean hands frequently using hand sanitiser and/or soap and water. Hand cleaning will take place before and after breaks and when moving between learning spaces.

In some situations schools may ask pupils/students to help with the cleaning of their own individual work areas, providing them with the materials to do so.



## RESPIRATORY HYGIENE

“Catch it, bin it, kill it” will be promoted in school and pupils/students must make sure they use tissues when coughing or sneezing. Providing your child with tissues to take to school can help.



## SCHOOL KIT

These arrangements will be individual to each school but in general pupils should limit what they bring in to school and should avoid sharing equipment. Essentials might include stationery, lunch box, books. Items can be brought in a school bag. **Coats** may also be needed as **ventilation** will be increased inside the buildings.



## GROUPINGS, SOCIAL DISTANCING

Schools will continue to operate “bubbles”, keeping different groups of pupils/students separate. Where children are old enough they will be asked to keep 2m apart (including from adults) when it is possible to do so.

It is likely schools will operate staggered or separate lunch and break times and may have staggered arrangements for the beginning and end of the school day.



## ATTENDANCE FROM 8TH MARCH WILL BE MANDATORY

The government guidance has made it very clear that school attendance from the week beginning 8th March will revert to being mandatory.

There will be a staggered start in the week beginning 8th March in secondary schools in order to complete a mass COVID 19 testing programme (see section below for more details). Each MITRE secondary school will let you know when your child should return to school in that week.

We very much appreciate some will have concerns for legitimate reasons about coming back to school and a very small number of pupils/students may be clinically extremely vulnerable. Please do not hesitate to make contact with your school who will work with you to put plans in place to support your child's return and ongoing education.

## TRAVEL

- ✿ Pupils / students are encouraged to walk or cycle to school wherever possible.
- ✿ When collecting or dropping off pupils/ students at the school gate, parents/ carers are asked to be considerate of those around them and not to congregate.
- ✿ Students (age 11+) travelling to and from school by public or designated school bus should **wear a face covering** for the journey, observe any distancing rules in place and follow the instruction of the driver.

## TESTING

- ✿ All secondary pupils will be offered three Lateral Flow Tests (quick tests) at the school's testing site during the initial return period. They provide a result within 30 minutes.
- ✿ Participation in the testing scheme is voluntary and requires consent - each school will seek consent in advance.
- ✿ Testing aims to support the safest possible return to school and is encouraged.
- ✿ If a pupil/student's test result is positive they will be sent home and required to self-isolate. They will also need to get a confirmatory PCR (full) test.
- ✿ Students who are part of the testing scheme (assuming they have had the three initial tests in school) will then be provided with home testing kits to be used twice weekly.
- ✿ Those who are part of the scheme will be expected to report the results of their tests both to school and to NHS Test and Trace.
- ✿ This testing scheme is not available for primary school pupils.

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## SELF-ISOLATION - WHAT TO DO

If your child has to remain at home to self-isolate, each MITRE school will make sure high quality remote learning is available so they don't fall behind their peers. Each school has published how they will do this on their school website and will share information with you individually as needed.

The flow diagrams below should help you know what to do if there is a need to self-isolate. The information is correct at time of publication but may be subject to future change.

### My child has symptoms :

- \* High temperature
- \* New continuous cough
- \* Loss or change of sense of smell / taste

### Keep your child at home

If symptoms develop while at school, collect immediately

Book a COVID test (PCR):  
[Visit this site](#)  
Or Call 119 (NHS)

Self isolation period of 10 days begins.  
Also for all members of the household, while awaiting test result

Positive test : isolation period continues until 10 days is completed

Negative test : Child returns to school when well

### My child has a positive test from school (secondary)

Collect from school straight away or give permission for child to go home independently

Book a COVID test (PCR) to confirm:  
[Visit this site](#)  
Or Call 119 (NHS)

Self isolation period of 10 days begins.  
Also for all members of the household, while awaiting test result

Positive PCR test : isolation period continues until 10 days is completed

Negative PCR test : Child returns to school

### My child is a close contact

- \* The school has contacted me
- \* NHS Test and Trace has contacted me
- \* Someone in the household has COVID

Self isolation period of 10 days begins. Unless a household member has a confirmed case of COVID, this only applies to the identified close contact.

If there are no symptoms, there should be no test. 10 days self isolation must be completed regardless of a negative test.

[LINK TO NATIONAL GUIDANCE FOR SELF ISOLATION](#)