



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL BIRMINGHAM

Return to school – an initial guide for parents

I am pleased to be able to confirm that, in accord with guidance from the Department of Education, we are looking forward to welcoming all boys back to school on Thursday 3 September. Boys should wear full school uniform and we will be operating a normal 8-period school day.

In preparation for the safe return of all pupils and staff the school has undertaken an extensive risk assessment and a document detailing what changes have been made to our facilities 'Managing Risk for a return to school' can be found in the policies section of the school website. For more information please visit the following Government advice pages [Advice for parents and carers](#) and [Advice for Schools](#)

Attendance

Please do not send your son to school if he or someone in your household is experiencing coronavirus symptoms or has tested positive in the last 10 days. Guidance on symptoms can be found [here](#). You should inform the school of absence in the usual way and refer to the NHS Track and Trace service [here](#).

If your son experiences symptoms at school, he will be isolated from other pupils, under the supervision of the school nurse, until he (and any brother at school) is collected. Parents should arrange for their son to be tested and then follow the stay at home guidance [here](#).

If your son tests positive for coronavirus, you should inform the school straight away. We will then be directed in our next steps by the local health protection team and further correspondence would be sent to all parents.

If your son will be self-isolating, shielding or in quarantine following a holiday abroad, please contact his Head of School - Miss Sarah Jones for Shells, Removes and Upper Middles (slj@kes.org.uk), Miss Carolyn Bayley for Fourths and Fifths (cvb@kes.org.uk) and Mr. Henry Coverdale for Divisions and Sixths (hmc@kes.org.uk)

Travel to and from school

We would encourage all boys who live within a convenient distance to walk or cycle to school; traffic is always very heavy in the vicinity of the school at this time of year and is likely to be heavier still this September. If boys are using buses or trains, they must of course wear a face covering. We would encourage parents to ensure that their sons know how to put on, wear and remove such a covering safely and effectively. Parents dropping off or collecting their sons by car on the Parade Ground should remain in their car at all times. To reduce congestion, dropping off and collecting at walking distance from the school would be prudent. On arrival at school, all boys, having washed their hands, should proceed directly to their form rooms and wait there. There will be no breakfast in the Dining Hall and communal areas should not be used.

Chief Master Dr Katy Ricks MA, DPhil (Oxon.)

King Edward's School, Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham B15 2UA
Tel: 0121 472 1672 Email: office@kes.org.uk Web: www.kes.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 529051

Daily routines

The Government's guidance regarding the return to school recommends that pupils are not required to socially distance but should, when in school, remain within their year group and should have minimal contact with others. This should not affect timetabled academic lessons but special procedures will apply to communal areas such as:

- The Dining Hall
- The USCR
- The Library, The Study Centre and Computer Rooms
- Outdoor Recreation Areas

Moreover, there will be a one-way system in the main corridors and stairways to reduce face-to-face passing. Classroom desks will all face forward and assemblies and extra-curricular activities will be within year groups or on-line. Boys should be aware that all school staff are required to try to be at least 2 metres away from boys and colleagues.

Enhanced hygiene at school

The best advice for preventing the spread of infection remains the thorough and frequent cleaning of hands and good respiratory hygiene. We will require pupils to clean their hands at one of the newly installed basins at the front of school or at one of the many new hand-sanitizing stations when they arrive at school, before and after breaks and lunch and when they change classrooms. We expect that this will become part of everyone's daily routine. The school drinking fountains should not be used and so boys should bring their own bottle of water (not fizzy drinks).

Toilets, door handles, stair rails, etc., will be cleaned regularly during the day and boys should clean keyboards with the wipes provided before they use any school computer. Other shared teaching equipment will be similarly cleaned before use.

Tissues and bins will be available throughout the school to support the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. We encourage boys to bring a packet of tissues with them to school.

Public Health England does not recommend the use of face coverings by staff or pupils when they are in school. Boys will not be prevented from wearing a face covering in school, but they must adhere to the correct procedure to wearing and removing it, to reduce risk to others. Boys should not wear gloves.

We will be writing again to you and your son before the start of term with more details about specific aspects of school life so we would be grateful if parents could hold fire on asking for further information at the moment.

These new ways of working will require all members of the school community to adjust, and we do hope that things will get back to normal soon. In the meantime, we have a responsibility to ourselves and to each other to follow the above guidance to minimize the risk at King Edward's School.

Mr Keith Phillips
Deputy Chief Master
20 August 2020