

# Return to Education in September

Planning before the summer break  
now paying dividends.

- 92.5% of pupils attending
- Students with an EHCP attendance rate 88.54%
- Pupils with social workers attendance rate 85.1%



# Devon Support for the full return to school

Education Welfare Calls at the end of last term to provide support and advice about plans for individual people return.

All Early years settings reviewed to identify children who did not return before the summer holidays to ensure transition planning was in place.

Transition guidance for schools, special schools and early years settings (especially for pupils with increased anxiety)

Extra links with youth and health services for pupils know to CAMHS etc and Youth intervention team

Advisory teacher support for individual children in all main stream schools for any child with SEN.

Outreach support for year 11 to College from AP providers in the autumn term

Multi agency support and monitoring at child level via Missing Monday

Schools have also put in place support to help children return to school.

Communications to Parents/Carers



# Keeping parents informed

## Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Return to school in September](#)

[What to expect](#)

[Tips to help your child prepare for school](#)

[Emotional support](#)

[New advice on face coverings in education](#)

[Travelling to school and college](#)

[Support for parents of children with special educational needs and disability](#)

[Free school meals](#)

[National voucher scheme](#)

[Temporary extension of free school meals eligibility to NRPF groups](#)

[Assessment of applications](#)

[Be aware of scam emails](#)

[Changes to breakfast, after school and holiday clubs](#)

[If your child has symptoms](#)

[Summer holiday provision](#)

[Finding summer provision and other childcare](#)

[Exam results, what next?](#)

[Online education resources](#)

[Department for Education coronavirus \(COVID-19\) helpline](#)

[Guidance for early years and childcare settings](#)

## Introduction

Information about coronavirus is [available in different formats and languages](#), including easy read, BSL and for people who are not online.

## Return to school in September

The government plan is that all children and young people, in all year groups, will return to school and college full time from the beginning of the autumn term. This is because the prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased since schools and colleges restricted their opening in March, the NHS test and trace service is up and running and more is understood about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments in schools.

It's really important for children and young people that they return to school and college, for their educational progress, wellbeing, and wider development.

So, school and college attendance will again be mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year. That means there's a legal duty for parents and carers of compulsory school-age to send their child to school regularly.

Where children are not able to attend school because parents are following medical and/or public health advice, the absence will not be penalised.

## What to expect

Teachers and staff have been working hard to implement the necessary steps so they can welcome all pupils back in the autumn term. However, it's important to note that this year all pupils may not be asked to return on the first day of term. Some schools may ask pupils to return one year group or class at a time so that they can get used to any new arrangements.

All children should have been given a return date within the first two weeks of term, though there may be a few exceptional cases.

Your school will have told you about the plans they have made for pupils to return, and you might have received this information directly from the school, or it will be published on their website.

## Safety measures

Each school will have its own arrangements and will let you know about the measures they have put in place to help keep everyone safe. This could include:

- introducing a one-way system
- marking the floor to support social distancing
- putting up signs to remind everyone to wash their hands and cover their mouths when coughing or sneezing
- creating 'bubbles' or groups of children and teachers by class, or year group
- having different start and finish times, break times and mealtimes throughout the day to manage the flow of children through the school

Parents can find out [more information about how schools are making their preparations](#) online. There is also [guidance for parents which sets out some of the changes and protective measures the government is asking schools and colleges to put in place](#), and about what parents, carers, children and young people will need to do to help ensure schools and colleges are as safe as possible for everyone.

 **connectme**  
Coronavirus (COVID-19) update



Devon  
County Council

## BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL

### In this update:

- Why are all children going back to school?
- School return dates and safety measures in schools
- Information on clubs, childcare support and free school meals funding
- Information on school transport and travelling to school safely
- Supporting your child's mental health and tips to help your child prepare
- Useful resources and links



Detailed DfE guidance for Early Years Providers, Schools, Colleges and Higher Education

They must also comply with health and safety law, which requires them to assess risks and put in place proportionate control measures.

All providers have reviewed their health and safety risk assessments and shared these with governors and the LA or their trust.

Risk assessments are very detailed and include how they will,

- Minimise contact by using:
  - bubbles, one way systems, zoned areas, etc
- Increase the frequency of cleaning especially in specialist areas ( eg music and PE)
- What to do if a child displays symptoms
- How to engage in test and trace
- Training for staff in the event of positive case in school.

CC are working very closely with school so we can share information and get good feedback from them.

Monitoring childrens return to school so we can support as soon as possible and also identify.

## Action for all schools and local authorities

- communicate **clear and consistent expectations** about **attendance to families**
- identify pupils who are reluctant or anxious about returning to school, are at risk of disengagement and **develop plans** for them
- **put measures in place for those families who will need additional support** to secure pupils' regular attendance
- work closely with other professionals as appropriate to support return to school, including continuing to notify the child's parent/carer, if they have one, of non-attendance

Guidance for adult settings from DfE both comprehensive and detailed, reflecting additional issues around peripatetic learner groups, mixed staffing complements, large and often complex site and departmental structures, and differing learning environments. All the challenges of a school, large employer and manufacturing / production site rolled together.

Every College and HE environment now has a detailed return plan in place, with larger scale return due to be begin from 7 September. Significant staff, student and wider community briefing has been ongoing over recent weeks, with web and virtual approaches used extensively. Strong leadership from Principals / Vice Chancellors and wider SMT members.

Provision has been running in many college and university settings throughout the COVID period, with some level of socially distanced learning ongoing from at least early May. Focus on supporting the most vulnerable in Colleges in particular. As such, many in FE / HE seeing return as an evolution of the approach initially rolled out last term, rather than a revolution.

Colleges and Universities also not immediately seeking 100% return of cohort, with blended provision likely to continue for around 40% of learners for the foreseeable future. Reflects both pressures of COVID, but also a shift in learning patterns amongst adults.

In general, less bubbling than within school environments, as difficult to achieve with adults and tutors given learning patterns and approach. However, majority have separated out A Level, SEND and broader adult cohorts, with differing teaching and learning / social distancing approaches for each. Strong focus across FE on 2 metre separation and PPE even before Government guidance.

No formal role for Local Authorities on implementation with FE and HE per say, so approach has been more about providing advice and sharing best practice where appropriate.

- Every site unique, but South Devon provides a strong example of the approach being taken by Colleges and other settings. Key measures include:
  - Reduce operating timetable for entire college site, from 8:30 to 5pm. Reduced staffing across site in general, with clear rota approach.
  - All students and staff fully briefed in advance of return around changes. Strong lines taken about not attending if any symptoms present. Students also advised not to use public transport if possible, though provision has been made for most vulnerable.
  - All staff and students required to sign in for track and trace purposes.
  - Car parks and barriers reviewed and two of three closed to ensure controlled flows into College.
  - Face masks and PPE have been provided to all staff. Students over 18 required to wear a mask.
  - Building by building review of flows and distancing undertaken, with all external doors electronically locked to act as either in or out points. Entire college estate shifted to a one way system, with two metre marking throughout, with all staircases allocated within one way system and lifts locked down for only those with mobility access on a one person limit basis.
  - All classroom and learning environments capacity reduced to provide 2 metre clearances between workstations / desks. Teaching area also set out in all classrooms to provide a consistent distancing approach.
  - Staff have all undergone virtual training to lead supervision of social distancing and to understand new regulations. Facility and SMT leading on enforcement and practise at each individual site and building location. Curriculum / departmental leads leading on staff rotation.
  - Risk assessments taken forward for every building, curriculum and learning approach by lead staff, with central approval process instituted before learning can begin.
  - Staff rooms and offices socially distanced, with embargo on hotdesking in day. Work from home sustained with all non student facing staff. CLT given lead role
  - Perspex screens installed at core locations, including reception and information points. Direct facing staff numbers reduced, with students asked to use web based advice provision as appropriate.
  - Café / catering provision limited to three core sites internally. All payment contactless.
  - Smoking shelters and all non essential gathering point facilities in wider estate closed
  - Reduction in access to toilets to only accessible facilities in the interim. Single occupancy approach in place.
  - Air conditioning cycles and airflows increased and redirected to improve relative airflow in all buildings and learning environments.
  - Enhanced cleaning and cleansing ongoing at all times. Individual curriculum areas also given additional responsibilities around their own workspaces and learning environments.
  - All trips banned in the interim

# A safe environment ( Emily)

- Supporting PHE to disseminate information, guidance and information about webinars for schools and Further education settings
- Supporting Devon County Council Health and Safety to ensure appropriate emphasis on public health and infection protection and control measures within the framework for risk assessments
- Supporting Devon County Council Education, Transport and Health and Safety to interpret national public health guidance and respond to queries relating to education and childcare settings
- Attending Education meetings with Head Teachers to answer direct questions and explain what to do if there is a confirmed case or outbreak in their setting
- Meeting with Further Education Settings to answer queries and explain what to do if there is a confirmed case or outbreak in their setting
- Development of a Standard Operating Procedure for the Prevention and Management of COVID-19 Outbreaks in Education and Childcare settings
  - Aims to clearly set out processes, roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders
  - Tested at a workshop involving representatives across Devon County Council
- Formation of Education and Childcare Cell by linking Public Health Tactical Management Group with Schools Covid-19 meeting to ensure clear route for escalation of issues to Tactical Management Group
- Responding to queries and situations from schools, further education settings and DCC colleagues as they arise

Dedicated school transport in place with additional Covid measures in place (eg boarding by year group and face masks for 11yr olds and over.

We have worked with transport providers to put in over 70 additional dedicated transport vehicles to provide additional capacity to routes (thereby removing the social distancing requirement on public transport and giving more capacity to ensure children can get to school and College.)

Communications with parents individually and information on the website.

Social media campaign on travelling during Covid

99% of pupils known to the team had transport in place on the first day.

## Issues

- Not applying in time (1000 less bus passes than this time last year)
- Moving and not notifying us (200)
- Schools not informing us of a change in time (<6)

Overall given the scale of what had to be achieved, and the late DFE guidance, it has gone very well.

