

BCP Refreshed lines and support for parents and carers in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6

Lines for parents and carers on what to expect and how to prepare their child for increased contact with school and phased re-opening

Are schools re-opening after half term?

All schools are already open in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) for the children of key workers and vulnerable group pupils. We have been encouraging vulnerable families to send their children to school as we believe that this is the safest place for them in the widest sense and are grateful to BCP schools who do not want to see children's learning compromised at a very difficult time.

How will schools open differently after half term?

The government has asked Early Years (EY) providers to open for all of their intake by June 1st.

Primary phase has been asked to open more widely to pupils from Reception and Years 1 and 6, where it is safe to do so from June 1st.

Government [guidance](#) and public health information is in place and will be updated from here.

What about other year groups?

The government has yet to issue its guidance to secondary phase education but there is an expectation that they will increase contact with Year 10 pupils and increase the offer to include Year 12 before the end of term.

Middle schools have not received any guidance or information about being open beyond the existing vulnerable group (VG) and key worker pupils (KW). Both we and Dorset Council are encouraging the government to consider the needs of pupils in middle and first schools.

How are schools preparing to open more widely and how will I know if my child will be getting a place and how to come to school?

All BCP Early Years (EY) settings, primary and secondary schools are risk assessing their sites in relation to the need for social distancing.

They have been asked to prioritise as follows;

- Maintaining the existing offer to VG pupils and KW children
- Keeping staff and pupils safe by maintaining social distancing and much smaller group sizes
- Adding in other groups as schools are altered to meet these essential components

When they have risk assessed and converted their school site for wider attendance at a safe distance, they will contact you and ask you about your needs and then explain what the changes will mean for you and your child.

Will all children in Year 1 and 6 and Reception get a 5 day full time place?

Schools were not built for class sizes this small or with a need for this level of social distancing. Your school leaders are going to accommodate as many pupils as they can safely do so whilst maintaining their existing commitments and the safety of everyone in school.

Will this opening happen on 1st June?

The government has confirmed that they will say whether they believe that it is safe to do so on the 28th May, so be prepared for changes in plans.

I am a key worker how will things change for me and my child?

Schools have been asked to continue to prioritise the children of critical workers, whose parents cannot work from home and vulnerable group pupils.

My school has offered me a place for my child but I am afraid of sending them into school.

Schools in BCP care very much about the well being of their workforce and their pupils/students. They and their Governing Bodies will not open unless they believe they can make this as safe as possible for all on site and the families they return to each day.

The government has decided that parents should be 'strongly encouraged' to have their children attend. However, parents **will not** be fined if they choose for their children not to attend school.

How might schools look differently?

England will be the first place in the UK to have a gradual return of some pupils in Early Years and primary phase; however there are some places where this is underway elsewhere in Europe.

This article on [Denmark's](#) schools, shows some of the things that your children can expect if they return to schools in June or July.

Schools in England have a different context (education starts at 6 and finishes at 16) and they are recommending smaller groups than the UK government, however some of the pictures in this article are helpful in starting to visualise how schools will have changed since your child was last in class.

How can parents support their child and schools in preparing for increased contact with schools?

Start to increase the number of times that you encourage your child to wash their hands and practice maintaining social distance.

Look at how they could walk or cycle to school to reduce congestion and because being outdoors is a safer space and practice the journey together.

Read schools' joining instructions-most will not want parents and other adults on site and will have set out safe entry and exit points.

Arrive at the time you are asked to attend and don't arrive early or linger later.

Explain any changes in behaviour policies to your child-social distancing is really important and although schools and pupils have missed each other, it's important that we keep each other safe.

Schools will tell you what children can/should wear and whether they can bring any kit or food with them-make your child aware of any changes.

Explain that they will be in different groups to March and may have a different class teacher/TA. This is because class sizes will be halved at least. Pupils will be in a "pod" or

group with the same adults/s. This will mean that if there were a case of C-19 that just the class would be sent home for self-isolation.

Support for families away from schools.

[Testing.](#)

The guidance and access to testing is changed and updated regularly, so it is worth following the link to the latest guidance.

[Government Guidance for Parents](#)

This link is updated regularly and subject to change.

How parents can help their children at home

[Secondary Phase](#)

[Primary Phase](#)