

Perth Academy

Information for Parents on

Current Planning for Return to School in August



19 June 2020 Update

Introduction

Last Friday we provided you with information on our planned model for returning to school in August. As you will most likely be aware there have been various statements made by the Scottish Government this week regarding time in school. All schools have been asked to look at their models again which we have done. We have therefore come up with an alternative model (see below). Again, it is important that we gain feedback from parents on this new model, **there is a link in the letter from Mr Lothian** which can be used to access the form to enable you to do this.

Stage 1 – Staff Return

Staff began returning to school this week in order to prepare for the new term.

Stage 2 – Pupil Return

Pupils will return to school **from 11 August** on a **part-time basis**, if it is safe to do so. Planning is underway to ensure that physical distancing measures are in place, staffing capacity is there and that transportation requirements are met (these are the 3 main limiting factors on which curriculum model we can operate). The model which we are now considering is one where we feel best supports learning whilst meets best practice for Health and Safety. **This now involves all S1-3 pupils receiving 2 days in school each week as a minimum requirement. Senior Phase pupils (S4-6) will receive 3 days in school each week.**

The rationale for this attendance pattern is as follows:

- ✓ Regular and predictable face-to-face teacher contact and support in each block of time.
- ✓ Prioritises Senior Phase learners preparing for qualifications, giving them multiple contacts with staff over the block, allowing improved opportunities to support learning and progression.
- ✓ Offers clarity and predictability to parents and pupils, rather than changes in days in and out of school on a weekly, fortnightly basis, allowing parents to make plans more easily.
- ✓ Reduces transitions between remote and in-school learning.
- ✓ Weekly consistency negates impact of weekend breaks on contact periods within blocks.
- ✓ Most effective model of managing the blend of in school and remote home learning, with weekly learner contact.
- ✓ Within S1-3, allows coverage of all curricular areas over a fortnight while prioritising increased time/weekly contact in some key subjects.

KEY INFORMATION

Movement – where possible we will aim to reduce the movement and mixing of pupils.

PE – This will take place outdoors.

Controlled Entry/Exit – pupils will be allocated an entry point at a specific time based on their lesson location where there will be hand washing facilities available. There will be a one-way-system in operation throughout the school.

Breaks/Lunch – there will be a staggered approach to breaks and lunch to reduce the number of pupils outside at any one time. Pupils will be encouraged to bring a packed lunch. Otherwise a cold lunch will be on an order and pick up only basis and will be also provided for pupils receiving free school meals.

Uniform – school uniform requirements will be relaxed during this phase. This is to recognise the requirement for more frequent washing of clothes and to enable pupils to undertake PE in their day clothes.

Additional Support – we will ensure that pupils with additional support needs have appropriate planning in place for both in school and at home learning.

New S1 Pupils – during the first week of the new S1 pupils being in school they will have support from older pupils to help them navigate around the school and there will be an induction programme in place.

IT – pupils will be encouraged to bring their own device.

Wellbeing – we are planning a soft start each morning with a focus on health and wellbeing, re-engaging with learning and making the best of the blended learning approach.