

# Return to school Level 3 plus

Information current as at 14 October 2021

Developed in partnership with NSW Health



# What we'll cover in this session

## Term 4 return to school



- Key dates
- COVID-safe practices at our school
- Vaccinations
- Where to find out more
- Questions and answers



# What you need to know about our return to school in Term 4

We're excited about our return to face-to-face learning and welcoming students and staff back onsite where we know the best learning happens.

We are taking a layered-approach to ensuring our school is safe for our staff and students.

Our guidance was developed with NSW Health and is evidence-based to give us multiple layers of protection.



# Key dates for our staged return

It's important that we stick to the staged return to give us time to be ready to welcome back students onsite. Students will return to face-to-face learning in the following order

- from 18 October – Kindergarten, Year 1
- from 25 October – all remaining year groups (Years 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).



# Vaccinations

COVID-19 vaccination is the best protection against severe illness and also reduces the risk of spreading it to others.

All staff required on site supporting the return to school will need to be fully vaccinated from 18 October.

Then from 8 November all staff, contractors, volunteers and pre-service teachers on a school site will need to be fully vaccinated, including Outside of School Hours Care staff.



# Keeping student groups together

## Cohorts = Stage groups

As we return to school students will be kept in their cohorts (stage groups) to minimise opportunities for transmission of COVID-19 and to enable effective contact tracing and containment.



Staggered recess and lunch breaks

Different play areas

Staggered arrivals and departures

Restricted mingling in the mornings before school

# Drop offs

## **Arrivals for Years 3-6 at 9.15am from either Queen St or Concord Rd**

We ask that you 'Kiss and Wave' at either gate. No parent or carer can enter our site, as per the DoE health regulations. Students will walk to their allocated wait space.

- Stage 2 - Under the little cola
- Stage 3 - Outside their classrooms

## **Arrivals for Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 at 9.25am from either Queen St or Concord Rd.**

We ask that you "Kiss and Wave" at gate. No parent or carer can enter our site, as per the DoE health regulations. Students will walk to their allocated wait space.

Early Stage 1 - Outside their classrooms

Stage 1 - Under the big cola

Morning time is not play time - extra time during the day for socialisation, being with friends, fitness

# Pick ups

## **Departures for Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 at 3.10pm from Queen St.**

Teachers will bring their classes to the Queen St Carpark. Parents to enter from the Queen St Gate, collect your children and exit immediately. Older children will join their younger siblings at this time also.

## **Departures for Years 3-6 at 3.25pm from either Queen St or Concord Rd.**

Teachers will be at both gates dismissing the students. Please meet your children at the gates and refrain from entering the school site.

As always please remember to remain vigilant in terms of physical distancing.



# School activities

Students will be able to	Students will not be able to take part in
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• use the school library</li><li>• engage in non-contact sporting and play activities</li><li>• access the canteen in cohort groups</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• school assemblies or morning lines</li><li>• school incursions and excursions</li><li>• inter-school activities such as debating and PSSA</li><li>• in-school activities where parents and other volunteers are invited, including Scripture and Ethics</li><li>• choirs, bands, ensembles - continue online</li><li>• drinking from our water bubblers – please bring a light-weight water bottle that can be refilled</li></ul>



# Hand Hygiene and Cleaning

Students will be reminded to wash their hands often, especially before and after breaks.

Sanitisers, hand wash and paper towels will be readily available in all classrooms

Additional cleaning of equipment and resources after each use

# Mask wearing for students and staff



## Masks

Masks will be required for all staff and all students

in Year 7 and above while they are indoors and outdoors on school sites unless eating or exercising.

Masks are strongly recommended for primary students both indoors and outdoors unless eating or exercising.

Students should bring their own masks where possible, but schools will have back-up supplies just in case. Masks are also required for all travel on public transport for children 13 years and older.

- Masks are required to be worn on school site by staff indoors and outdoors
- Recommended for students indoors and outdoors unless exercising or eating.
- If you wish your child to wear masks, please provide 2 fresh masks each day.

# Fitting a mask on a younger child

Please send your child with a mask and a spare in their bag. We'll have some on site too.

We have a graphic from NSW Health on how to fit a mask properly – please have this conversation with your child.

While masks are not required in the Public Health Order for our primary students they are strongly recommended by NSW Health and the department has taken the decision that they are required as an important layer of protection for our staff.

There are some exemptions around mask wearing – eating and exercising being the key times. Please have a look at the NSW Government website for the full list of

exemptions. <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/changes/face-mask-rules>



# Fitting a mask to younger children

## How to wear a mask



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**1** Ensure the mask covers your nose and mouth and fits snugly under your chin, over the bridge of your nose and against the sides of your face

## How to wear a mask



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**2** Make sure the ear loops are firmly in place

## How to wear a mask



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**3** Fold the metal strip in the mask around your nose so it stays in place

## How to wear a mask

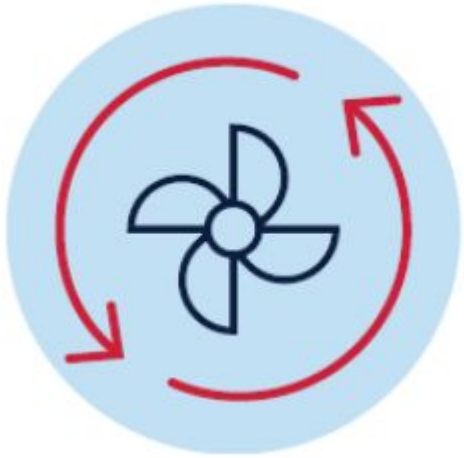


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**4** Try not to touch your face while wearing your mask

# Ventilation

Having open or well-ventilated spaces reduces the risk of transmission of COVID-19 because infectious particles are more quickly diffused in the open air.



The air-conditioners may be utilised along with open doors and windows to assist with student comfort.

Windows and doors in all classrooms will be open for cross ventilation.

If the weather is cold, please provide additional clothing for warmth.

# Attendance

All of our students are expected to be back at school for their staggered return dates. After this date, we will not support students learning from home unless: :

- A student has an auto-immune illness with Dr certification
- NSW Health have advised us to lock down our school e.g during a snap lockdown



# Canteen and Uniform Shop

Canteen will reopen on 25 October

- staggered cohorts and times
- encourage you to order online

Uniform shop will operate online

- please allow up to a week for you to receive your ordered items



# Students with symptoms

**If your child is unwell, do not send them to school, even with mild symptoms.**

Any student with any COVID-19 symptoms should not return to school until they have received a negative test result which is shared with the school, and are symptom-free.

- headache
- fever
- runny nose
- cough

# Further information and questions

All of our students are expected to be back at school for their staggered return dates. After this date we will only be supporting learning from home where this is required by NSW Health to do so.

Parents and students will be notified if a decision is made to close the school due to a confirmed case of COVID-19. During this time we will continue to provide learning from home activities and we will let you know when we can return to face-to-face learning. All communication will be via email and Skoolbag.

Find updated information on the department's Advice for families page to support students who are anxious about the return to school – or get in touch with us directly.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>

# Thank you

Please contact the school should you need to discuss any of these items.