



Belmont School - COVID-19 Update

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you with an update on how we are managing the coronavirus pandemic and the ways we are transitioning our pupils back into school. I also wanted to reassure you that we are proactively looking at ways to help all our pupils and their specific needs. Below you will see what measures we have put in place to support this.

As a school we remain open and operational, but this is on a partial and restricted basis. We have completed an internal risk assessment of the school and calculated the number of children we can safely have on site each day, which currently stands at 20 pupils. Therefore, it is just not possible for any of our pupils to attend full time, meaning that the vast majority of our pupils will only be able to attend a maximum of 1-2 days. We are monitoring this closely as many of our pupils have been off school for nearly 3 months, so we are phasing pupils in slowly to reduce anxieties. Starting with 1 day a week building up to 2 days per week. A part time timetable has been proposed for our pupils, so that we can have small groups, staggered lunchtimes, and strict social distancing. We wanted to be consistent and fair with our offer, and ensure every pupil is given the opportunity to attend. This is following government guidance and making sure we are protecting all our pupils and staff members. We continue to aspire to increase our onsite offer for the remainder of this term. We appreciate that this may cause stress for Parents/Carers and pupils but are monitoring the current situation daily and as a school we are working in line with guidance provided and will amend our plans accordingly.

Current safety measures in place at Belmont school include:

- A reduced school day 9:00am arrival for 9:30 start - 1:45pm finish (1:30 on Friday)
- All pupils will have their temperature checked with a forehead thermometer when they arrive at school. Any pupils who register a temperature over 37.8 will unfortunately have to be sent home and parents/guardians informed. We recommend them being tested for COVID-19.





- PPE – Workstations are set up throughout the school. These include hand sanitizers, with the option for pupils and staff to wear gloves and face masks.
- Social distancing measures in place. Signs and lines measuring 2 metres across the school.
- Strict hand hygiene protocol when entering buildings, between lessons, at break times and before they eat at lunch.
- Class sizes at a maximum of 3 students when working in large areas such as the Voc Ed unit or Horticulture. Due to the sizes of our classrooms we are working with a maximum of 2 pupils when accessing classroom based activities, each class will be supported by 2 members of staff.
- Lessons - These will be a mixture of academic and social/practical activities. Pupil welfare and wellbeing is the primary objective.
- One-way systems for movement around more populated corridors and walkways.
- Pupils and staff will have split lunch times and individual tables when dining.
- Restricted access to food preparation areas and a tightening serving procedures.
- We have created a timetable for our pupils and staff. This is so that they are attending the same day(s) each week, this to limit the contact with other pupils and staff.
- Meetings and visits are being conducted remotely. Non-essential external visitors are not permitted (unless deemed necessary).

It is expected when your child is in school that they continue to follow the rules and boundaries we have in place to keep everyone safe. As outlined in previous correspondences if any pupil displays concerning behaviour such as:

- Refusing to follow social distancing guidelines.
- Refusal to using PPE/hand washing.
- Aggression towards other pupils/staff.
- Physical interventions.
- Spitting
- Leaving the school grounds, going into the local community.





We may be left with no other option but to reduce the amount of days your child attends. This is in order to maintain high health and safety measures in school. As outlined in previous correspondences

Please be assured that on the days when your child is not attending school, they can still access education at home. Online lessons, sending out work packs and accessing work from the school website are all still available.

If you have decided to keep your child at home full time, we are fully supportive of your decision and will continue with the education package that we are currently offering. This will not have any negative impact on your child's overall attendance figures. You also have a right to change your mind at any time between now and the end of term, again as a school we will support your decision. We will continue to make weekly welfare calls, where we will keep you updated about any changes in school, support you with any concerns you may have and offer any support that your child may require.

It is also our intention to write to you to keep you updated on any changes to the provision we have on offer. Any changes will be in response to any significant government changes that affect your child.

If you have any further questions or would like to discuss anything in more detail, then please contact me using my details which are below.

Yours sincerely

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