

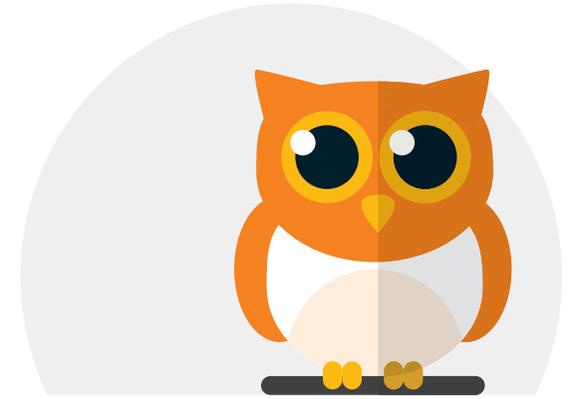
Preparing for the transition back to school or college:

Questions to ask



Questions to ask

We have collected a list of questions for families to consider that can help you understand the potential changes at school or college following the Coronavirus pandemic.



Starting school or college again

What days will the school/college be open?

What time will the school/college day start and finish?

How will the school/college be managing social distancing?

If there is a reduced timetable, how long will this last?

Can pupils start part-time and build up to a few days?

Are there any changes in behaviour policies? How will the school/college be managing these?

Will pick-up and drop-offs be managed differently?

Are there ways parents and carers can support the transition?

Are breakfast and after-school/college clubs still taking place?

Will there be any changes in home to school/college communication?



Preparing for the transition back into school or college

Is there anything to prepare for the first week, for example homework or reading?

Is there new Coronavirus specific vocabulary to be aware of?

Can the school/college share the timetable in advance?

Are there new processes or rules like one-way systems?

Is there a list of items to take in on the first day?

Will staff be wearing PPE?

Communal areas

Are toilets being cleaned more regularly?

How has the school/college been deep cleaned?

How will cloakrooms be used?

Will the sensory room be available?



Classroom

Are several different classes coming together?

How many pupils can sit at one table?

How will staff ensure pupils are motivated and given class work appropriate for their age and ability?

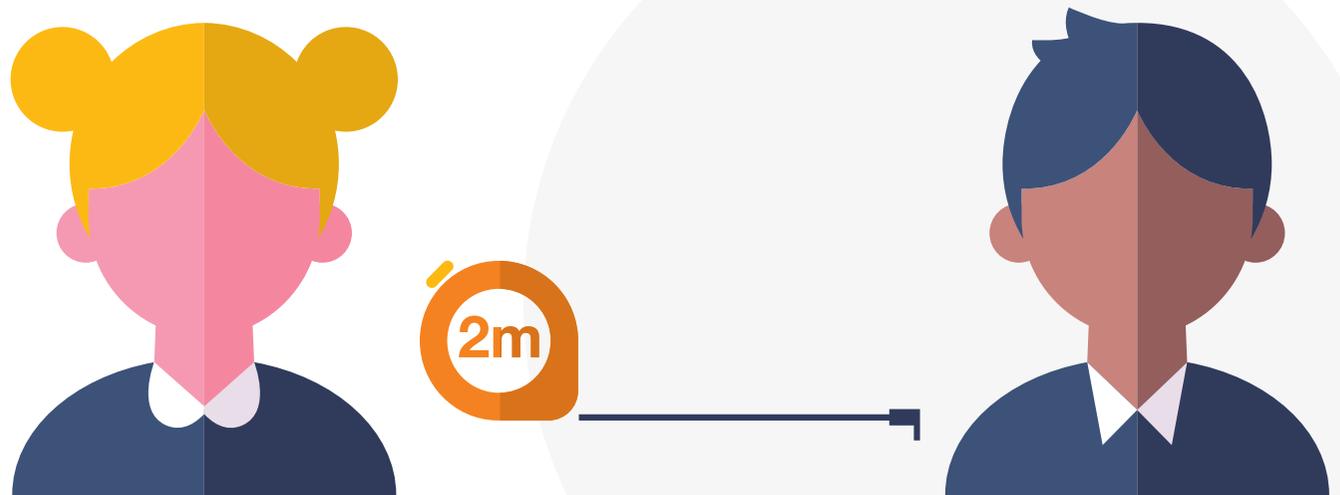
Will the school/college share pictures of the classroom layout?

Is the room layout different?

Who will be in the classroom, old classmates, new ones?

Do pupils have to bring in their own stationery and equipment?

Will lessons be delivered differently? If so, how will these accommodate autism-specific needs?





Specialist support

Will individual support assistants or the school/college SENCO available?

How will visits from external professionals, such as a speech and language therapist, be carried out safely?

Will there still be access to therapy?

How will pupils be helped to make and maintain friendships while observing social distancing?

What is the teacher to student ratio?

Who will check in with pupils throughout the day to make sure they are adjusting and okay?

Will there be extra breaks for pupils who are struggling?

Outdoor areas and breaks

Will there still be breaks at regular intervals throughout the day?

Are the play areas regularly cleaned?

How will breaks observe social distancing?

How many staff will be in the playground during break?



Personal hygiene

Are there any changes in the rules on uniform and clothing?

Can pupils take in their fidget/stimming toys from home?

How are pupils and staff washing their hands regularly?

Do pupils need to clean equipment they bring in from home, e.g. water bottles?

How will hand washing be supported for those with sensory difficulties?



Food

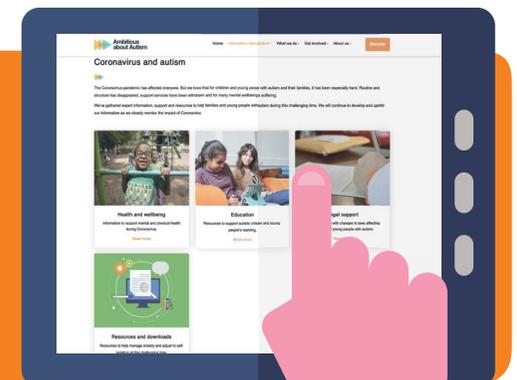
Will free school/college meals still be provided?

Will lunchtimes be staggered?

Can pupils bring their own lunch? If so, are there rules about what is allowed?

How many people will sit at one table?

It is important to collaborate with your school or college where you can. Working with them will help everybody to understand the changes and observe them safely. If you need extra support around changes to routine, or legal advice, visit our [Coronavirus and autism support page](#).



We are Ambitious about Autism

Ambitious about Autism is the national charity for children and young people with autism.

We provide services, raise awareness and understanding, and campaign for social and policy change. Through TreeHouse School, The Rise School and Ambitious College, we offer specialist education and support.

Our ambition is to make the ordinary possible for more children and young people with autism.



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