

Frequently Asked Questions – regarding the temporary closure of schools

Will children who are attending school over the next four weeks be required to wear uniform?

Children and young people who are attending school do not need to wear uniform. On Monday 23 March, it would be sensible to bring all the usual equipment they would normally take for a day at school, including PE kits. For secondary school students this will include school issued personal devices such as iPads.

Will children who are attending school over the next four weeks be required to bring lunch?

Primary schools - children will need to bring a lunch as they would usually do
Secondary schools - Catering facilities will be open so students can buy lunch, alternatively children may bring a sandwich lunch. Canteen spaces will be closed and children and young people will be required to eat lunch adhering to the physical distancing guidelines

What will my child(ren) be doing during their time at school?

The intention is that schools will be running as normally as they can with staff supporting children with a range of engaging activities, taking into consideration the Government guidance in respect of physical distancing. Large gatherings of students, for example assemblies, will not take place.

Will school buses be running?

All school transport will continue to operate as usual.

What are the expectations for children not attending school?

Children and young people who are not attending school and who are well may have holiday work and project work to complete during the extended Easter break. Teachers will have communicated to students the details of any such holiday or project work. We would encourage parents to continue to do all the activities they do to support their children's learning, including online activities and reading with them. It is also important that Public Health guidelines in respect of physical distancing and self-isolation are adhered to.

I am a teacher, can I bring my children to the school I work at?

No, it is important that children and young people continue to attend the school they usually go to and not to change that routine to minimise risks.

I am a key worker, does my child have to attend school?

This is an offer to parents and carers and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so. Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. However guidance in respect of physical distancing should be adhered to at all times.

What age groups does this cover?

The changes cover children at registered childcare providers (including nurseries and childminders), primary and secondary schools and further education colleges. This is for both state-funded and independent schools.

Will it be mandatory for all schools, colleges and registered childcare providers to remain open in some form?

We are asking schools, colleges, nurseries, childminders and other registered childcare settings to remain open for children of key workers and vulnerable children where they can.

How long will schools and colleges be closed for?

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, schools, colleges and childcare providers will be closed to the majority of pupils for the next four weeks until the end of the planned Easter holiday period.

Will this apply to independent schools?

Yes. We are asking independent schools to do the same as state schools and remain open for critical workers and vulnerable children.

Will registered childcare providers, schools and colleges be open over Easter holidays for holiday clubs and childcare?

The Education Office is currently investigating the possibility of access to holiday provision (in childcare settings, schools and colleges) for these students who have parents identified as key workers.

Does this apply to special schools?

We recognise that children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) and their parents and carers are facing numerous challenges as a result of coronavirus. Students with special educational needs will be able to attend, if parents wish to send them, this includes those who would normally attend Le Rondin, Le Murier, Les Voies and additional needs bases. Guernsey College of Further Education will be working with parents of students with special educational needs to ensure that they are supported.

What will happen to exams?

The Committee for Education, Sport & Culture will provide clarity for students and parents in the Bailiwick as soon as further information is available, following the decision by the UK Government not to hold exams this summer. It is not yet clear how the UK Government plans to manage and coordinate this situation but it will undoubtedly have an impact upon the Bailiwick. The Committee acknowledges that it is possible that other international awarding bodies may be affected by the impact of Covid-19 and is seeking further information which will also be shared as soon as it is available.

Students should continue to work towards their qualifications and gain knowledge whilst we await further information.

If you have any other questions that are not covered by this document please call 01481 733017 or email educationsportandculture@gov.gg