

A 'Pupil's Perspective' response to concerns made by pupils

A number of questions have been raised across the county by school children ahead of them returning back to school. We asked Naomi xx (our representative on the Pembrokeshire Schools Council) and Lewys Kettle (one of our Pupil Governors) to provide a Pupil Perspective on them.

- Mixed response about PPE – from everyone should wear facemasks and that it is compulsory to it should be just staff and there should be no PPE

Optional to wear – school should not be in need to provide this as most effective measures have already been put in place – social distancing, one-way system as well as regular cleaning of facilities to kill germs/bacteria.

- Will everyone be having their temperature checked
No, the Welsh Government does not support this approach.

- Wanting to feel safe to go back to school and being reassured of what the school has put in place

The School is doing everything required by the Welsh Government – implementing one-way system, providing cleaning staff throughout the day who will regularly be cleaning school facilities to ensure bacteria is killed, social distancing measures in place as well as ensuring places that would be at risk to pupils are closed off (i.e. school library, small offices for meetings).

- Not being able to get close to friends
This is the same for off school premises, although you are still able to communicate with them when being socially distanced.

- Too many people in the school at the same time

School is ensuring that the number of pupils on site at any one time is below the government regulations – placing the safety of pupils and staff as the number one priority.

- Not being allowed to attend school by their parents

Ask parents why this is the case? School has gone 'above and beyond' to ensure the safety of pupils and staff – if it was not safe for pupils to return, senior staff would not allow pupils to return.

- Social distancing seems to be a main concern and what happens if pupils or staff don't stick to the rules?

Then pupils will not be allowed/not welcome on site of school if they wish to put peers at risk.

- Will there be extra support for pupils who are struggling, will there be understanding if people get upset

Pastoral/pupil wellbeing will be at the heart of the provision the school will provide on the return of pupils – as less pupils, there will be more staff: pupil ratio – plenty of staff for you to discuss concerns with (also, as only certain year groups in per day, less of you in your mentor group which is another opportunity for you to talk to a member of staff about your concerns).

- Cleaning the school - will there be more cleaners?

More cleaning time will be provided for our current cleaning team.

- Concerns about using the toilet and how will this be managed

Full time cleaning staff stationed outside the toilets, who will clean each toilet after a single use – killing bacteria/germs immediately so the virus will not spread

- Not really knowing what to expect on the first day back

All information that pupils will need to know will be posted through the school website.

- What will happen over break and lunch times?

School breaks will be staggered through the course of the day, to ensure that social distancing rules and the safety of pupils/staff can be maintained.

- Loss of knowledge and being able to be part of a group

The majority of pupils will be in this position, teachers will take this into consideration as virtual learning is completely different to classroom learning. As government rules are relaxed, and we can go into the next phase of reducing restrictions within school, this will come back naturally.

- Having mixed emotions about going back and feeling scared

A proportion of pupils will be and there will be support in place within school to tackle any problems/concerns that pupils may have.