



STRATHALLAN
SCHOOL

Opportunities for *all* to excel



A COVID-Safe Return to School

September 2020

Where health and wellbeing come first

Returning to Strathallan in September 2020

As we head into our summer holidays and a well-earned break for all, it is impossible to ignore the impact that COVID-19 has had on our school and will continue to have as we plan for our return in September. Strathallan is working towards a full return for both boarding and day pupils, with appropriate contingencies in place to ensure the health and wellbeing of every one of our pupils and staff. This document sets out an overview of our plans as they stand, but is by no means comprehensive or immovable: we will be adapting to changes in guidance and policy as they arise.

We are fortunate that our 153-acre campus, rural location and spacious facilities give us a head start when planning proper social distancing measures, and that the technological provision offered by our remote learning platform Strath Worldwide allows even more flexibility of learning. We were among the first schools to sign up to the BSA's COVID-Safe Charter, and these principles are at the heart of all our planning.

I want to take this opportunity to reassure you that we are taking every available measure to ensure Strathallan remains a safe, healthy and happy place for everyone. I very much look forward to seeing you all back at school, and to welcoming the many new pupils who will be joining us at Forgandenny for the first time.



Mr Mark Lauder, Headmaster



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The BSA Charter and Strathallan's Commitment to Health and Hygiene

As one of the first schools to sign up to the [Boarding School's Association's COVID-Safe Charter](#), we have been considering how best to manage the safety of pupils when they return to campus for some weeks now. Strathallan will be putting in place a number of measures, with the health and hygiene of all pupils at the centre of our plans. Some of these measures are outlined here.

Risk Assessments

We are working with external consultants to put together comprehensive risk assessments and risk management plan for our return to campus. The risk assessment and key protocols will be made available in due course on the Parent Portal.

Health Centre Arrangements

Our onsite Health Centre will continue to function as usual, with all guidance and implementation of protective measures overseen by Dr Lenny Burnett, the school's Medical Officer. Our qualified school nurses will oversee any suspected cases and an isolation centre will be established for use if required.

Classroom plans, campus flow, dining and hygiene



Our extensive campus works in our favour and we already know that we can have every pupil in a classroom simultaneously at the currently recommended distance of 2m. If this figure reduces, we have even more flexibility, and our large outdoor spaces allows for open-air learning as much as possible.



We have reduced set sizes, created new sets and increased our teaching contact time to facilitate this. We also know that the use of technology will now significantly increase, and we are planning further significant investment in our capacity and infrastructure that will be delivered in time for September to allow lessons to continue whatever the phase of lockdown we may be in, up or down.



Carefully planned pedestrian flow systems will be implemented throughout the school, with detailed plans about this to come ahead of our return in September. Dining room service will be staggered on a rotational basis, for example with lunch served between 12.50 and 2pm, and our catering providers are producing a COVID-specific risk assessment for the service of food.



With access to increased facilities for hand hygiene, additional cleaning regimes and ongoing training and reminders about good hygiene protocols, pupils will be well versed in COVID-safe practices. The school is recruiting peer guides in different year groups to learn the new systems and be able to assist all pupils during the first days back.

Protective measures, PPE and cleaning practices



PPE is available for all those whom the Risk Assessment identifies as having a requirement and also for those (including pupils) who through choice would prefer to wear it. In accordance with the BSA Charter, pupils are welcome to wear their own masks at school should they choose to do so, and a culture of tolerance towards mask-wearing will be promoted. Masks will be available for purchase in the school shop, and will be compulsory in some areas such as on school transport. Pupils should bring a supply of masks with them when they return to school.



Additional cleaning regimes will be implemented throughout the school, and clear information about symptoms of COVID-19 published and prominently displayed across the campus. The school has the ability to deep clean any room in house or classrooms if any suspected or actual cases emerge.





Uniform and equipment required

Uniform requirements will be reviewed to facilitate COVID-safe practices as the situation evolves. Upon return in September, pupils in Strathallan Prep School will wear school sports uniform and can supplement with plain navy or white t-shirts if required. In the Senior school, pupils will be required to wear normal full uniform, but the wearing of kilts or traditional dress on Wednesday will be suspended until it is safe to resume Chapel.

Changing of clothes during the day will be in single rooms or socially distanced in changing rooms in senior houses. There will be no sharing of personal items – clothing, stationary, sports equipment etc. Masks will be required on all school transport, and otherwise the wearing of face masks will be at each individual pupil's discretion. Any intolerance or bullying on the basis of mask-wearing, including the choice not to wear a mask, will be treated as a serious breach of the school's anti-bullying policy.

All pupils will be required to bring their own laptop or device on which to complete online aspects of next term's curriculum. In addition, pupils should bring their own stationary, school bags and sports equipment (e.g. hockey sticks, tennis racquets, tennis balls, rugby balls etc) all clearly labelled, and none of which can be shared.

Online learning/Strath Worldwide

In addition to the continued provision for online learning for onsite pupils, Strath Worldwide will be made available for any pupils who are shielding or unable to attend school and any pupils who are isolating at school or at home at any time during the term.

What to do if you develop symptoms

If you develop symptoms prior to returning to school all members of your household must follow the government's isolation protocol. Please inform the school immediately and do not attempt to return to school until you have completed the required isolation period, even if you feel healthy. The school's Health Centre will advise.

What to do if you or your family is shielding

If you or a member of your household is shielding a family member, please let your housemaster/mistress know as soon as possible. Arrangements will be put in place to ensure books and materials are supplied to you and an online provision will continue for you to follow at home if the shielding requirements at the time require pupils to stay at home.

What if a pupil or boarder becomes ill?

In the event that a pupil becomes ill, the School's Health Centre will follow the clinical advice from our medical staff, who are available 24 hours. Parents will be informed if their child is unwell or isolating due to a member of their House bubble being unwell. An isolation centre can be established in school immediately if required.



Returning to school as a Boarder

When to return and how to return to school

We are currently planning for a 14-day quarantine period for all international pupils prior to returning to school, with the exception of those travelling via a UK Government Airbridge. It is not compulsory to quarantine at school; however, you must advise us of your quarantine arrangements if you choose to quarantine elsewhere. The school's quarantine arrangements will cover the full 14-day period, will be charged at cost, and will include a mixture of activities as well as an introduction to the school's COVID-Safe arrangements. New pupils should arrive for quarantine on 17th August and current pupils on 19th August where possible. Please note, parents will not be able to enter the boarding house at any time.

Arrangements in House

All necessary safety requirements will be implemented whilst keeping the warmth and home-from-home spirit that represents house life very much at its heart. Each house is completing its own individual risk assessment based on social 'bubbles', which will be created to ensure the track and trace system can work effectively, if required, with minimal disruption to daily routine. Under government guidance, social distancing may be required between boarders and day pupils and this will be enforced by all. Any pupil refusing to cooperate with these rules will be asked to return home.

Interaction with day pupils

Under current government guidance, interaction between boarders and day pupils will be on a socially distanced basis. Classes will continue with a mix of both boarders and day pupils in attendance, and will observe social distancing measures. Risk of infection will be continually assessed in accordance with up-to-date guidelines and measures to protect all members of the community will be reviewed and implemented as required. House to house visiting is unlikely initially to be possible, but all year groups will be assigned outdoor areas in which to socialise with friends in accordance with up-to-date guidance.



Returning to school as a Day Pupil

Pick up and drop off

Pupils in Strathallan Prep School will be given a set arrival time before the start of term to stagger numbers using the Prep School entrance. All senior and day pupils will be given a temperature check on arrival at their House every day, and parents should remain contactable for the first ten minutes after drop off in case of any issues. There will be designated drop off areas for each House, and parents will not be able to enter the boarding houses.

Changing arrangements

All senior pupils will have a bedroom of their own wherever possible, and where day pupils have to share a study bedroom, changing will be in a designated area of the house changing room. Boarders will not be able to use the house changing rooms, and cleaning arrangements will be increased in these areas.

Interaction with boarders

Under current government guidance, interaction between boarders and day pupils will be on a socially distanced basis. Classes will continue with a mix of both boarders and day pupils in attendance, and will observe social distancing measures. Risk of infection will be continually assessed in accordance with up-to-date guidelines and measures to protect all members of the community will be reviewed and implemented as required. House to house visiting is unlikely initially to be possible, but all year groups will be assigned outdoor areas in which to socialise with friends in accordance with up-to-date guidance.

How your classes will look



Class sizes will be limited as required to maintain social distancing. Our classrooms are already large enough and the timetable has been adjusted to facilitate this.



Timetables will follow the current Strath Worldwide timetable with 6 x 50 minute lessons and 10 minutes transfer time to allow for safe movement of pupils through a carefully managed pedestrian flow system. Strathallan Prep School pupils (Years 4, 5 and 6) will remain in their year group classrooms other than for specialist lessons, for example in science and sport.



Online learning will continue to supplement face-to-face classes and pupils will need headphones and a laptop or tablet (not Chromebook) for all lessons.



How your co-curricular activities will look



Music and Performing Arts will continue, but will be appropriately socially distanced. One-to-one music lessons will continue with measures in place to ensure no cross-contamination in rooms, and some may stay online. Ensemble rehearsals will also continue, with rules preventing the sharing and storage of music and stands. Implementing distancing measures will mean more outdoor drama lessons and creative use of space, as well as coming up with new ways to perform such as film-making and live streaming. Pipe Band lessons and rehearsals will also continue with appropriate measures in place.



Sports practice will follow government and national governing body advice appropriate to each sport. Under current guidance, use of shared equipment will not be possible and therefore pupils will be required to bring their own, clearly labelled personal equipment such as rackets, hockey sticks etc.

Useful information and articles

[BSA COVID-Safe Charter](#)

[NHS Inform's COVID-19 guidance](#)

[Parentclub Scotland's Coronavirus Information Page](#)

[Health Protection Scotland's Guidance for Residential Care Settings](#)

[UK Government's guidance on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing](#)

[Scottish Government's Schools Policies](#)

[PKC's Coronavirus: Schools, children and families](#)

The information contained in this booklet is by no means exhaustive and is subject to change as official guidance evolves. Further updates will be issued as required over the coming months.





STRATHALLAN SCHOOL

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Strathallan School
Forgandenny
Perth PH2 9EG
Scotland UK

+44 (0)1738 812546

info@strathallan.co.uk
www.strathallan.co.uk

 StrathallanSch

 strathallanschool

 @StrathallanSchoolOfficial

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