



## **Swansea Consistent 15 Principles for reopening schools**

Swansea's guiding principles on the return to education opportunities have been drawn up to help schools plan how best they can allow pupils who would like to return to check-in, catch-up and prepare for September. The principles are not prescriptive for all schools but allow as much consistency as possible in Swansea schools, at this time. It is accepted that every school is different and safe return will be based on the school's own risk assessment.

For all age groups the aim is to offer provision in line with the Welsh Government guidance however, the local authority (LA) acknowledges there may be different challenges for individual schools.

A risk assessment may identify specific issues which may give a reason why certain groups cannot safely attend and the local authority will support any school which is unable to offer provision if the decision is made following a detailed risk assessment. Equally, the LA will support any school that is able to open for all pupils following a detailed risk assessment.

### **Guiding principles**

#### **Principle 1**

The local authority's and schools' primary focus must be the physical and emotional wellbeing of staff and learners.

#### **Principle 2**

Schools need to make provision available for vulnerable children (for check –in or childcare) and the children of critical workers (which now includes school staff) between 15 June and 17 July. Emergency childcare for critical workers takes **primacy**.

#### **Principle 3**

Wherever possible, all pupils should have contact with their current and next school year's class teachers/form teachers when they attend their school. The contact can be virtual.

#### **Principle 4**

Pupils should be offered visits to school in the three-week period between 29 June and 17 July. A school's risk assessment will determine frequency. There will be no minimum number.

#### **Principle 5**

There is not an expectation for schools to provide an opportunity for check in, catch up and prepare sessions for pupils in nursery and reception between 29 June and 17 July. If a school considers these pupils to be vulnerable or the children of critical workers then they can access the childcare provision. The LA will support any school that is able to open for all pupils following a detailed risk assessment.

#### **Principle 6**

Schools will be responsible for determining sessions for check-in, catch up and preparation for September. These will be conducted within normal school operational hours.

#### **Principle 7**

The school-based emergency childcare settings will move to each school between 15 June and 29 June for the schools' own pupils (who are vulnerable children or are the children of key workers). Opening times will be between 8.30 am and 3.30 pm weekdays only. Opening hours can be extended (if needed) by short periods of time at the beginning and end of provision, to facilitate drop off and collection times.

#### **Principle 8**

Schools must not exceed 33.3% occupancy.

#### **Principle 9**

The last day of this school term for pupils in Swansea schools will be Friday 17 July. Schools are expected to be open for staff on Monday 20 July (if required).

#### **Principle 10**

Simple clear messaging reinforcing our practical and safe approach. Continuity of learning plans will continue in parallel to check-in and catch up.

#### **Principle 11**

The local authority's guidance and risk assessments to schools will align with national guidance.

**Principle 12**

All children to bring their own packed lunch to school unless a school offers half-day sessions where no lunch at school is required.

**Principle 13**

There will at least be a virtual opportunity for transition between primary and secondary schools.

**Principle 14**

All pupils with ALN must have the same opportunity for the check-in, catch-up and preparation for September as other pupils. Individual needs, the child and their families' voice must be considered and reasonable adjustments put in place to enable access to the check-in, catch-up and preparation facility.

**Principle 15**

Where possible, parents and carers should travel with their children to and from school, ideally on foot, by bike, scooter or any other means of active travel. Social distancing should be maintained on the journey to and from school.

The Transport Team will work with schools and settings to determine the demand for home to school transport for eligible pupils and will endeavour to meet these requirements.

In providing free home to school transport, priority will be given to those pupils who are unable to attend school without it.