



مدرسة سمارت فيجن
SMART VISION SCHOOL

School Readiness Plan
Safe Return to school
20/21

Index

Welcome Back	3
School Timings	4
Staggered Reopening.....	5
What class is my child in?.....	5
Uniform and Equipment.....	6
Entry and Collection.....	9
Suspected Covid Cases.....	13
Coivd-19 Quarantine Procedure.....	14
Monitoring and Contact Tracing.....	15
Class Arrangements.....	17
A ‘Blended’ Approach.....	19
Reintegration to School life.....	21
Regulations	23

Welcome Back

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families are safe and well.

2020 has been a year like no other, and as a school community, we realise the impact it has had on your families. Before the summer, we pulled together and supported each other in order to ensure your children have been able to continue their education and make progress. This next academic year may also have its challenges but we will remain positive and continue to adapt and work together as a team.

Over the summer, the KHDA has worked extensively with schools, parent representatives, teachers and federal policymakers to develop a set of guidelines to ensure a safe return to school for our children. These guidelines reflect scientific evidence and international best practices, but more importantly, they are informed by hours of discussions with school leaders, teachers and thousands of responses by parents to surveys conducted by KHDA. With these guidelines in place, we are confident that schools will be able to welcome students back for the Academic Year 2020/21.

The following guide provides you with essential information to prepare you and your child for their return to school. If you have any further questions, please email head.primary@svschool.ae (Primary) or sara.a@svschool.ae (Foundation Stage) Please also look at the new section of our school website 'Safe Return to School' for updated information, videos, resources and we will continuously add to our frequently asked Q & A.

On Thursday 27th August, all parents will be invited to a 'Meet the teacher' zoom meeting where you can ask any further questions. I will also be hosting morning 'Drop in' zoom meetings on Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th August at 10am – 10:30am for any parents that have any general questions about return to school. For those families that are still unsure and are considering 100% distance learning, I will be hosting a zoom on Thursday 20th at 11am to discuss how this would look and talk you through the expectations and support that would be in place.

We cannot wait to welcome your children back into school at the end of the month and look forward to a successful 20/21 academic year.

Rachael Wilding
Acting Principal

School Day Timings

Please see the table below which outlines when specific year groups can enter the school premises and exit.

For parents who have children in different year groups we will agree collection times for both to leave at the same time in order to support you as a family and encourage social distancing.

Year group	Arrival from	School begins	Collection time
FS1	7.30am	8.00am	1.00pm Children with Siblings will be offered a later pick up time.
FS2	7.30am	8.00am	2.00pm – 2:20pm
Year 1	7.30am	7:50am	2.10pm- 2:30pm
Year 2 & 3	7.30am	7:50am	2:20pm- 2:40pm
Year 4, 5 & 6	7.30am	7:50am	2:30pm – 2:40pm

*Thursday 1:00- 1:30 staggered finish for FS2-Yr6.

Until further notice, sports squads and internal ECAs will not operate.

Staggered Reopening

We will operate a staggered reopening to school, beginning August 30th. This is to allow us to evaluate the effectiveness of our operating procedures (such as thermal entry points) whilst at less than 100% capacity.

This is for the health and safety of the whole school community, and we trust that you are supportive of us in taking these steps.

FS1, FS2 and Year 1 children will be allocated a 'bubble' - A and B. This will be communicated to you before the start of the school year.

FS1 will not begin their schooling until 6th September.

From Week 2, we expect to run a full timetable, with 100% of children in school **apart from FS1** who will continue this staggered attendance for an extra week.

On Thursday 20th August, we will add a table to the 'Safe Return to School' section of the website detailing which classes your children are in and which day they will have as their staggered first day. This information will also be emailed to you.

What Class Is My Child In?

Due to the exceptional set of circumstances, along with the requirement to obtain KHDA approval of our operational procedures, we are yet to confirm class lists for the upcoming term.

As a reminder, we cannot confirm your child in a class until such a point as the Term 1 payment has been agreed and any outstanding amounts from 2019/20 are also settled. Class lists will be organised on Thursday 20th August, please reregister by this date.

Wherever possible, we will endeavour to ensure that your child is placed in a classroom alongside at least 1 of their named 'friends'.

Uniform and Equipment

Uniform

It is expected that all children wear full SVS uniform to school every day. On the timetabled day for PE, children should wear PE kit to school, and will remain in PE kit for the whole day.

It is imperative that parents recognise the importance of ensuring children's uniform is washed thoroughly and each day they wear clean uniform to school. You should use an alcohol-based spray to sanitise school shoes once at home.

School Bags

Due to communal cubby holes being unavailable, we will be asking children to place their school bag on the back of their chair. With this in mind, we ask parents to be mindful when selecting a school bag. Suitcase style 'wheelie' bags are not permitted under any circumstances.

Lunch boxes

When organising a packed lunch for your child, please be sure that they can open containers and packaging independently. Unfortunately, class teachers and classroom assistants will not be able to handle any containers or packaging throughout the school day. Practising this skill at home will ensure that your child has a smooth and happy snack and lunch time.

Water Bottles

Communal water coolers are not permitted under DHA guidelines. We therefore ask you to ensure that your child has an appropriately sized water bottle to carry enough water to last them the whole day.

Labelling Clothing/Equipment

It is imperative that you adequately label all of your child's clothing and equipment, so as to ensure that it is not accidentally shared.

For FS1 children please provide an extra set of clothes in a zip lock bag in case of accidents. This must be sent in daily as we are unable to store any spare clothes in school.

Masks

For children in Years 2 - 6, it is mandatory that they wear a face mask. This should be a DHA approved mask.

Your child should carry spare masks in case they lose/misplace it, or the mask becomes damaged.

Please ensure that your child is confident with how to wear a mask correctly before the start of the school year, and knows the importance of wearing a mask correctly.

If your child is in FS1-Year 1 no masks is required however should you personally wish them to wear a mask then ensure your child is confident with how to wear a mask correctly before the start of the school year.

Hand Sanitiser

Regular hand washing will be a consistent part of our school routines, and in addition, there will be hand sanitiser stations around the school.

However, we recommend that children carry a small bottle of hand sanitiser (key ring style bottles can clip to a school bag) so they can access it when needed.

iPad 1:1 Scheme

Given the increasing reliance on technology as a tool to access the school curriculum, exacerbated by the blended learning approach, we will continue to be reliant on our 1:1 iPad policy for Years 1-6.

Furthermore, it is compulsory that all devices are enrolled on to the schools management console.

If you need purchasing advice, please feel free to contact our IT Manager Mr. Ifthekar – ifthekar.a@svschool.ae who will be happy to advise you.

Headphones

Due to our blended learning approach, children will spend some time accessing online resources/videos. So as to not disturb other children, and to provide a quiet working environment, headphones are essential.

For sanitary reasons, it is not possible for us to provide shared headphones.

All children, from Year 1 upwards, should have a pair of headphones as part of their standard school uniform. These can be in-ear or over-the-ear type headphones - we recommend choosing an appropriate pair with your child.

Please note: they do not need to be an expensive pair - low cost headphones are more than adequate for watching instructional videos/listening to instructions through blended learning.

Entry and Collection Procedures

Please note: all parents will need to submit **one** photo to their child's class teacher. This must clearly show your child along with the family members/adults who will be involved in collecting them from school. Please include the names of all individuals. Members of staff will only allow your child to leave with these designated adults.

Foundation Stage 1

Entry

Access to the site will be from the **FS Gate**. Children will enter the classrooms directly from the external door and may be accompanied by their parents. Both parents and children will pass through the sanitization tunnel and be temperature checked by the thermal scanner. If a child and/or parent do not meet the temperature requirement, they will be asked to wait and will be re-tested after 5 minutes have passed. If they still are $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ you will be asked to take your child home.

Collection

Parents will collect their child directly from their classroom, via the internal door. Parents will be reminded to remain socially distanced whilst waiting for their child. Parents are asked to limit their time on site and once collection has been completed, to exit through **FS Gate and not enter the main reception.**

Foundation Stage 2

Entry

Access to the site will be from the **FS Gate**. Children will enter the classrooms directly from the external door and may be accompanied by their parents. Both parents and children will pass through the sanitization tunnel and be temperature checked by the thermal scanner. If a child and/or parent do not meet the temperature requirement, they will be asked to wait and will be re-tested after 5 minutes have passed. If they still are $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ you will be asked to take your child home.

Collection

Parents will collect their child directly from their classroom, via the internal door. Parents will be reminded to remain socially distanced whilst waiting for their child. Parents are asked to limit their time on site and once collection has been completed, to exit through **FS Gate unless they need to collect primary siblings.**

Year 1

Entry

Children will enter from Main Entrance and will pass through a thermal scanner. In the early stages of the reopening, they will enter with their parents if required. Adults will also pass through the scanner. If a child and/or parent do not meet the temperature requirement, they will be asked to wait and will be re-tested after 5 minutes has passed. If they still are $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ you will be asked to take the child home.

Collection

Parents will be reminded to remain socially distanced whilst waiting for their child. Parents are asked to limit their time on site and once collection has been completed, to exit through **Main Gate**.

Years 2 - 6

Entry

Children ONLY will enter the school site from **Main Gate**. Children will be encouraged to use the car drop off zone wherever possible, or parents will park and walk to the gate.

They will pass through the sanitizer and thermal scanner, If a child is $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ they will be asked to wait in a designated area within the main reception (adequately socially distanced) and will be retested after 5 minutes. If the temperature at this point is $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ the child will be placed in the designated isolation area, and you will be called to collect your child.

Hand held electronic thermometers will be available in each learning area so as to reduce the flow to the school clinic in the event a child reports an adverse temperature.

Collection

Parents will have options to park at the front or back of school. Once a parent has arrived the class teacher will be notified and release the child from the class. Parents will not collect directly from classroom.

Bus Children

Children will have their temperature checked and recorded before entering the bus. If the temperature exceeds $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ they will not be allowed to board. Due to the time constraints of the bus, the bus will not wait. All children will need to wear their masks whilst in transit.

The school buses will depart the school site at **12.45pm for FS 1 and at 2:10 for FS2 – Yr. 6.**

Siblings

Where a parent has children across multiple year groups, we ask wherever possible that you synchronise pick up and drop off so as to reduce traffic around the school site.

All learning activities will be available through our online platforms, so as to not disadvantage children who may arrive late/leave early. Additionally, our timetable has been constructed in such a way as to minimise disruption to 'core' lessons (namely English, Maths, Science and Arabic) through early/late arrival/collection.

Late Collection

The safety and wellbeing of children relies on parents being prompt in collecting their children at the end of the school day.

Please ensure that when you are setting off to collect your child from school, you leave with plenty of time, taking into account the increased traffic around the school site.

Where a parent is consistently late to collect their child from school, the school reserves the right to request a meeting with the parent concerned, and to take whatever sanctions it deems necessary.

Suspected Covid-19 Cases

If a child demonstrates any of the following symptoms, the class teacher or specialist teacher will be responsible for their removal from class, and move them to the on-site isolation room.

In most cases, parents will be called and asked to collect the child from school, however in serious cases, it may be necessary for the school to seek immediate medical care.

Common Symptoms:

fever (temperature $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$)
dry cough
tiredness

Less Common Symptoms:

aches and pains
sore throat
diarrhoea
conjunctivitis
headache
loss of taste or smell
a rash on skin, or discolouration of fingers or toes

Serious symptoms:

difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
chest pain or pressure
loss of speech or movement

All cases will be followed up by the schools Health & Safety officer and the Covid-19 Quarantine Procedures will be enacted, please see the following page.

Covid-19 Quarantine Procedure

The Leadership Team will be responsible for the wellbeing of children who are absent from school due to a suspected/confirmed Covid-19 quarantine.

Procedure

- Upon a child's withdrawal from school and entering into quarantine, the Health & Safety Officer will inform the Leadership team of the quarantine, all this information will be held centrally on our SVS Tracker.
- A member of the Leadership team will make contact with the parents of the child and arrange, as soon as possible, a telephone or video call to outline the support the school offers during this time.
- A Covid Education Plan (C19-EP) will be put in place, detailing the support for both the child's wellbeing and educational development - this will include measures such as Zoom calls with classmates/teachers to support the wellbeing of the child during quarantine, as well as ensuring the child has access to educational materials.
- The above measures will vary depending on the severity of the case. The leadership team will treat all cases on a case by case basis as such.
- The Leadership team will continue to make contact with the child/parents throughout the quarantine period to ensure the continued wellbeing and support of the child.
- Upon the return to school, the Leadership team will liaise with the class teacher to ensure the child is able to transition effectively back to the classroom.
- Children must obtain a negative PCR test before being allowed back on to site.

Monitoring and Contact Tracing

Return to school

All families will be required to complete a "Return to school" electronic form which will include the following information:

(This will be sent out on Sunday 23rd August)

- Travel declaration
- Updated telephone numbers/email contact details

Until this form is completed, children will **not be allowed to attend school.**

Travelling within Term time (August onwards)

Where a parent and/or child has travelled outside of the UAE, they will be asked to submit an electronic form detailing the destination country.

In the event of a Covid-19 case being identified in the school community, the H&S Officer, alongside the SVS Covid-19 Response team, will be responsible for contact tracing. SMS/WhatsApp will be used to inform the parents where a potential contact within DHA guidelines has been made.

Contact Tracing

- Parents of FS1/FS2 children will be allowed into the FS building **until 8am.**
- Parents of Year 1 children will be permitted (until October half term) entry to the school site (FS2 block and Y1 rooms) **until 7.50am** where they must then leave the school premises.
- Any late children will be escorted by staff members as after 8:00am no parents will be able to enter the educational areas.

External visitors

External visitors will be limited and where possible will not be on site until after 2:30pm. Wherever possible they will remain in the reception area and not enter the educational sections of the school.

These visitors will leave full contact details including Emirates ID to a form **BEFORE** entry is permitted.

Classroom Arrangements

Safe Return to SVS

The children will be learning new routines that contribute to their safety during the pandemic. This will include regular timetabled handwashing, the importance of wearing a mask (for children in Year 2 upwards) and lessons surrounding social distancing.

Foundation Stage and Year 1

Children in FS and in Year 1 will be placed into stable groups (bubbles) which will remain constant until such a point as restrictions are lifted. These groups of 8 (FS) / 10 (Yr. 1) children will both be under the supervision of the class teacher and classroom assistant.

Classrooms will be divided into two, each 'bubble' will have access to the toilet and handwashing facilities. Additionally, a cleaner will be on hand to regularly clean the facilities. The class teacher will maintain full visibility of the classroom as a whole including both 'bubbles'.

Year 2 - Year 6

In order to ensure safe social distancing of 1.5m inside the classrooms and 2m in common areas are maintained at all times we have put the following in place:

Within classrooms, we have reduced the amount of furniture so as to increase the floor space, so as to allow for social distancing. We have additionally limited capacity in the classrooms so as to ensure children remain socially distanced within the guidelines.

Children will be asked to place their bag on the back of their chair - as access to communal 'cubby' holes will no longer be permitted. With this in mind, we ask parents to be mindful both of the size and type of bag that children are bringing in, as well as being careful not to overfill bags.

Communal Spaces

Outside of the classroom (common areas, hallways etc.) floor markings and signage will help promote the message of 2m social distancing. This will be supported by teaching and support staff supervision as well as ongoing training and reinforcement.

Different year groups will enter/exit through different entry/exit points and use different stairwells, so as to avoid overcrowding.

Break/Play Time

When the outside temperature is $<38^{\circ}\text{C}$, we will resume outside playtimes. These will resume under the following guidelines:

- There will be staggered break times so as to ensure social distancing
- Shared equipment will remain out of bounds (such as balls and climbing frames)
- Children will be restricted to marked areas of the site so as to prevent the likelihood of children from different year groups mixing
- It will be expected that children maintain 2m social distancing
- Team games will not be permitted
- Snack/lunch must be eaten inside the school building so as to ensure a hygienic environment

A 'Blended' Approach to Learning

What is 'Blended' Learning

Blended learning is an approach in which children learn both through face-to-face teaching (the traditional method) and through digital resources (videos, Seesaw activities etc.).

Blended Learning at SVS

So as to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our school community, SVS will be utilising blended learning.

What this means is that:

Some specialist lessons will take place in the child's 'home' classroom, with resources delivered through electronic means. This will include (but is not limited to) Seesaw activities, pre-recorded video lessons and live teaching through video conferencing such as Zoom. During these lessons, the class teacher/TA will remain with the class, and the specialist teachers will be available through video conferencing to assist where children need assistance.

Physical Education

Each child at SVS will continue to receive a weekly physical education lesson. So as to ensure the safety of the children, lessons will be adapted so as to allow for adequate social distancing. This means that team games/activities will not be permitted until further notice.

Additionally, we will continue to produce additional activities that can be carried out at home. We are committed to our vision of a healthy and active school community and ask that you support us in this. When the weather permits us to use the outdoor spaces around the school, we will add in a further PE lesson to the timetable.

Swimming

At present, KHDA guidelines prohibit swimming as part of the school curriculum. We will update parents as/when this changes.

* If KHDA guidelines allow swimming to resume, the second weekly PE lesson will be changed to a swimming lesson. There will be a reintegration period in this event, so as to ensure children's safety. Further details will be published in that instance.

Inclusion Support

SVS is an inclusive school committed to supporting all learners. Our inclusion department will continue to operate. Inclusion teachers will continue to support our most vulnerable children, through face to face and video conferencing, as is deemed necessary, appropriate and safe.

Our excellent processes for tracking children's progress and attainment will continue, and our inclusion department, working alongside the class teachers and the leadership team, will continue to ensure that all children progress.

100% Distance Learning

We recognise that not all parents will want their children to return to school in August. Additionally, some children with compromised immune systems may not be able to return to school. A 100% distance learning option is open for all children, **regardless of circumstances.**

With this in mind, all of our lesson content will be made available through our online system. Additionally, should you opt for 100% distance learning, an online mentor will be assigned to your child who will make daily contact with them, and monitor their progress. If you wish to use the 100% online learning please email head.primary@svschool.ae . Mrs. Wilding will also have a parent meeting on zoom at 11am on Thursday 20th August for any parent who is thinking of remaining with the 100% distance learning.

Please note: there are **no fee reductions for this mode of learning.** This will also be clearly stated in our Parent Contract that you will need to sign before your child starts school.

Reintegration to School

We believe that for most of our children, being back in school will be a positive experience, in which they will thrive being back amongst their peers, furthering their education and achieving success.

Whilst there may be some discomfort or unease at some of the measures put in place to keep all members of the school community safe, such as the wearing of masks, our view is that being in school, regardless of the restrictions, will be a positive experience for children, from both a social and a learning perspective.

However, we recognise that there will be some children for whom reintegration to school will be far more challenging.

We need to work together as caregivers, and we ask that all parents, before they return to school, address the issues below with their children, and reassure their children that their health and safety is paramount in our minds.

Before returning

- Speak to your children about COVID-19 and let them know that it's natural to feel anxious or nervous about returning back to school.
- Have an open conversation about their anxieties and fears about returning to school and reassure them about safety measures and precautions the schools will have in place to keep everyone healthy.
- Be honest about the changes that they will see at school, such as the need to wear masks, inability to be close to their friends and teachers.
- Explain to your children that they will play an important role in keeping themselves and their community healthy by wearing a mask, maintaining social distancing, and sanitizing hands.
- Highlight the positive aspects of returning to school such as being able to meet their friends and learning new things.
- Continuously check in with your children to evaluate their well-being when school begins.

Regulations

- It is **mandatory** for all children of school-going age to be enrolled in school for the Academic Year 2020/21.
- Schools should provide an option for 100% distance learning for all students, regardless of need or circumstances.
- No COVID-19 test is required in Dubai (at present) prior to returning to school for staff or for pupils.
- Your school may request you to provide a medical clearance if your child is absent for a prolonged period.

