

King's Ely's Response to COVID-19

Policy and Contingency Plans – Q&A for return
of international borders in September 2020

Version 1: 25th June 2020



King's Ely – Policy and Contingency Plans Q&A for return of international boarders in September 2020



Throughout our long history welcoming your children to King's Ely safely has been, and remains, our priority. Following the lockdown and remote learning period this term, we are delighted to be planning for a full and safe reopening in School this September.

Mr John Attwater, Principal

This document is designed to give as much clarity and reassurance as we can to students, parents and agents about our provision from September 2020. Although it outlines our intentions now, these will be subject to change should circumstances or official guidance dictate otherwise.

King's Ely will comply with the Boarding Schools Association (BSA)'s COVID-Safe Charter of best practice published June 2020 and found here:

www.boarding.org.uk/userfiles/bsa/pdf/Advice%20and%20Guidance/82902%20BSA%20COVID%20V2.pdf

1. If schools are allowed to open in September but overseas families are unable to return will we offer online teaching?

Yes, as far as possible. For Y9 and above we envisage this will be joining live lessons via Microsoft Teams/ Zoom and having work set; for Y8 and below this may be more limited to ESOL and tutorial support with tasks set.

2. Will we accommodate overseas students if a 14-day quarantine/self-isolation period is still in place before September?

Yes, if the 14-day period is still in operation we will offer an option to quarantine/self-isolate in our boarding houses from 19th August. Students will be looked after by experienced boarding staff and in line with government guidance.

However, at this stage we would encourage parents to delay booking flights until UK Government guidance on quarantine for overseas visitors is revised on Monday 29th June.



3. Will we arrange direct transport from airports on 19th August or at the beginning of term?

Yes, we aim to do so on or around 19th August. Pupils will travel to school in transport that has undergone disinfecting prior to pick up. Social distancing measures in operation at that time will be strictly observed. Driver and passengers will wear face coverings from the point of pick-up. Pupils should use bathroom facilities before leaving the airport as once collected drivers will return directly to school.

4. How will the quarantine/self-isolation process work at King's?

Upon arrival at school all pupils will have their temperature taken and recorded. The upper limit for a non-viral reading is 37.8. The pupils will then be directed to their accommodation for whatever the specified duration for self-isolation is at that time. All pupils will be assigned an individual room for this period. Specific shower and washing facilities will be allocated individually or to very small groups of pupils in order to minimise the risk of any transmission. Temperatures will be taken twice daily. Pupils may only have contact with people they travelled with from their home destination; in all other circumstances pupils will be asked to avoid contact with each other. Where possible pupils will live in the house they would expect to be in from September but depending on the numbers who return for self-isolation this may not be possible. All our houses have gardens or outdoor spaces nearby and students will, in line with guidance, be able to take daily exercise in these areas. They will be cared for by a dedicated team of professionals familiar with boarding.



5. Will we allow other quarantine arrangements?

Yes, we will allow pupils to undergo the quarantine/self-isolation with their parents in local accommodation, or with nominated guardians or host families, provided we have advance notification and are satisfied that the arrangements are suitable.

6. What arrangement will we make for those who have not quarantined in time for the beginning of term?

Pupils will not be allowed to return to school until they have completed any required quarantine. During that period, where possible, we would seek to provide them with online learning opportunities and streaming access to school events.

7. What steps will we take to sanitize facilities before students return and once they have returned?

All buildings and facilities will be deep-cleaned and sanitized before pupils return. School facilities, especially areas such as bathrooms, dining hall and toilets, will be regularly sanitized throughout the day. Each boarding house will have a dedicated team of cleaners and a matron. These staff will all wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) whilst cleaning.

8. Will we provide hand sanitizers?

Yes, there will be numerous hand sanitising stations throughout the school. Each boarding house will have stations at entrances and exits and on each landing. Rigorous hygiene and handwashing practice will be enforced throughout the school. We would advise all pupils and staff to carry their own pocket bottles of sanitizer too.

9. Will we provide face masks to all students and staff in school?

Official guidance will be followed. Medical, cleaning and some other support staff will be provided with appropriate PPE including masks. Teaching staff will be provided with face visors and/or masks as appropriate. Pupils will be allowed to wear face masks. Whilst this is not currently a requirement it may become required. Masks will be available for purchase within school. Masks will not be advised during exercise and mealtimes or for very young children, in accordance with guidance.



10. Will we be temperature checking?

Yes, in reception areas and boarding houses. Temperatures will be checked routinely for younger children and day pupils entering the school each morning. Boarders will have their temperatures taken and recorded in the morning and the evening.

11. How will we keep pupils safe in school?

Our methods for keeping pupils safe will be based on the social distancing regulations in operation at the time. In June we successfully implemented a plan making the most of our space which allowed for social distancing throughout the day. This included various one-way routes with a minimum 2 metre spacing and associated signage and sanitising stations. We would expect to do the same in September, depending on guidance. Children may be taught in smaller groups or bubbles/clusters, again depending on the regulations at the time. Dining areas are being adapted to allow for social distancing and mealtimes staggered. We will ensure that break and lesson times are staggered to allow smooth movement around the site. Any 'whole school' event will be streamed or recorded until such time as it is safe to gather in larger groups.

12. How will boarding houses operate?

In boarding houses, we will aim to maintain social distancing in accordance with official guidance, recognising this may not be possible in all areas, activities and ages of children. Boarders will be organised into "bubbles" of no more than 15 students. We will open additional boarding facilities if required to reduce numbers sharing rooms. Dining arrangements for boarders will be staggered and organised to minimise crowding and interaction between groups. As well as operating the bubble process we will separate out weekly and full boarders into their own groups. There will be no occasional or flexi-boarding and only those associated with a boarding house will have access. Depending on guidelines at the time the use of common areas and house kitchens will be strictly monitored. To begin with, students will not be allowed to leave school grounds and this will be extended as required. Pupils will not be expected to play fixtures or attend any trips before half-term and this will be extended for the full term subject to government guidance.



13. Will there be co-curricular activities such as music, drama and sport?

All departments will be organising their activities according to social distancing guidelines. Sporting activities will adhere to the advice that national governing bodies have recommended for schools and may not follow the regular termly pattern. Activities and sports will be chosen and managed to minimise the risk of spreading the virus.

14. What is the policy with respect to racism and discrimination of pupils?

Racism in any form is not tolerated at King's Ely and will be treated with utmost seriousness. All students will be educated in COVID awareness, including how some people have been wrongly blamed for its cause and spread. Staff will be briefed to spot and deal with any incidents.

15. Will King's be carrying out regular COVID testing?

King's is fully aware and has access to the latest testing procedures. We are in regular consultation with our local surgery and the team of doctors that work with the school. Their advice and that of Public Health England will inform any testing procedures and their timing, which the school will implement.

16. What will the school do if a student has symptoms of COVID-19?

Any student displaying symptoms will be sent to the school's isolation unit staffed by healthcare professionals. Parents of day students will be advised and asked to collect their child as soon as possible. They will not be allowed to return to school until all government guidelines for self-isolation have been followed. Any boarder displaying symptoms will be isolated in accordance with the published guidelines and be tested on the advice of the school doctor. Any pupil tested positive will be cared for in isolation in school until they recover. If after 7 days the pupil remains unwell or their symptoms have deteriorated, then 111 will be contacted and admission to hospital discussed. Where extended recovery is required boarders should expect to undertake this under the care of their guardian, until they are ready to return. The boarder's living area will be thoroughly deep cleaned and clothing, books etc quarantined. In the event of a positive test the Track and Trace system will also have been triggered and other pupils and pupil bubbles will be isolated as required.



17. How will the school care for the general health and wellbeing of boarding students during this pandemic?

King's will continue to uphold the highest of standards in hygiene and health and safety. We are committed to caring for all our pupils in a compassionate and professional way. Our Medical Centre is staffed by professional nurses who are able to provide 24/7 care. All children at King's are registered locally with St Mary's Surgery: we have two doctors who undertake clinics for boarding students three times a week. We also have independent counsellors available to all students to offer help with personal wellbeing. If pupils or members of our community are medically vulnerable, because of an ongoing medical condition, our healthcare professionals will work with them and their parents to create a bespoke care plan.

18. Will boarding houses remain open at Exeat weekends and the October half term?

Yes, houses will remain open for anyone who is unable to go home or to an appropriate guardian under the guidance in place at the time.

19. How safe is Ely?

We are very fortunate that Ely and Cambridgeshire have seen far fewer cases than many other areas of the country. We are encouraged that there is good spare capacity within local NHS and hospital provision. One of the leading hospitals and COVID research centres in the country is Addenbrooke's, situated on the outskirts of Cambridge and less than 32km from Ely.



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