

KING DAVID
**RETURN TO
SCHOOL**
101



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“EVERYTHING CAN BE TAKEN FROM US BUT ONE
THING: **THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE OUR ATTITUDE**
IN ANY GIVEN SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES”

- VICTOR FRANKL



LETTER FROM RABBI KACEV

The Minister of Education's announcement that schools will be returning in phases over the coming weeks has been met with relief by some and concern from others. This is understandable as the risks attached to COVID-19 have not disappeared and yet these risks have had to be considered in light of the need for the economy to slowly restart and for children to not have their educational year compromised. This is not an easy balance and the return to school is a process that we have taken very seriously.

When schools were closed down, just over two months ago, the common view was that COVID-19 was no different from influenza, making children the most susceptible and the biggest transmitters of the virus. Now, some two months later, while there are still many unknowns about the virus, the statistics and emerging medical data suggests strongly that this is not the case. While children can catch the virus it is most often weaker and they are for some reason not as likely to transmit it.¹ While this is good news, it does not detract from the schools need to adhere in every way to all health guidelines.

We do believe that the **online teaching provided has been of a high quality** yet remain firmly convinced of the **many benefits that face-to-face schooling provides**. The level of community, of meaningful interaction and engagement, of social and emotional development as well as the immediacy of the learning cycle are but a few critical examples to be mentioned after such a long period in lockdown.

There is a recognition that with all the desire for a quick return, in this situation we need to go slow in order to go fast. We need to be guided by available data, learn from what is working for others and be both agile and adaptable. There may be families who will choose not to send their children back initially yet **our return to school is intended to be organised, paced to engender confidence and involve all of the necessary actions to mitigate possible risks**. This is a time that is going to need partnership, co-operation and compliance from each and every one of us.

The approach adopted by the board is underpinned by a number of guiding principles. These include:

- The **safety** of our children, staff and parents
- The **imperative to revert to face-to-face teaching** for the additional educational benefits inherent in such a model
- The need to **comply** with all **government guidelines and regulations**
- The **social and emotional needs** of our students who will benefit greatly from being back in the school environment

The schools have received the general operating procedures and health requirements from the Department of Education and we have used these to guide the procedures in our schools. This document will set out our **operating procedures and expectations** from staff, students and parents. The initial school day will be **focussed and shorter** than a normal school day due to many reasons that will be evident in the rest of the document. **Lessons will be longer and breaks shorter** due to the physical distancing constraints.

Disasters or the experience of going through a common difficult situation assists us to reach greater heights of community and co-operation. This theory of "collective resilience" was pioneered by John Drury, a professor of psychology at the University of Sussex. I am sure that as many of you have gone walking in the early morning hours you have been greeting fellow walkers. You innately know what they are going through and identify with them. In the past you may have just walked by without even acknowledging them. As we return to school, there will be great excitement for many children who are able to see their friends yet one underlying feeling that will create a tremendous bond will be the sense of our common difficult experience. Maybe like biblical Noah leaving the ark and slowly entering a new reality, it will **be our choice how we decide to contribute to those around us**. When making that choice hopefully it will be to **do kindness and continue to reach out** to those who need our support as we have done over the past two months.

¹ <https://nicspaul.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/spaull-2020-schooling-policy-brief-10-may-2020.pdf>



A PHASED APPROACH TO RESUMING SCHOOLING

With permission from the Department of Education, independent schools have been given the dispensation to phase in schooling at a rate that differs to public schools. They have however limited this to **one grade per contained school site starting at a time**. The King David Schools are intent to manage the return to school in a manner that ensures full adherence to all health requirements and allows for **proper orientation in a calm and anxiety free environment** that will nurture safety and an optimal learning environment. Each school will **bring in one grade at a time**, make sure that that grade is settled and fully understanding of the compliance required and only then introduce the next grade.

SCHOOL	GRADE
King David High Linksfield	Grade 12
King David High Victory Park	Grade 12
King David Senior Primary Linksfield	Grade 7
King David Sandton	Grade 7 (1 June) and Grade R (4 June)
King David Primary Victory Park	Grade 7
King David Junior Primary Linksfield	Grade 1
King David Ariel	Grade 1
King David Pre-primary Linksfield	Grade R
King David Pre-primary Victory Park	Grade R
Minnie Bersohn	Grade R
King David Rosebelle Klein in Waverley	Grade R

It is the current thinking and intention of the primary schools to **introduce Grade 1 after Grade 7 and the high schools will move from Grade 12 to Grade 11 and so forth**. The Department of Education has laid out the requirements for physical distancing, the need to stagger the start and end of the school day as well as the requirement to stagger breaks during the day. To accommodate these requirements and ensure that we do **not compromise on safety**, the return dates for subsequent grades cannot be determined upfront. As the school is ready to introduce the next grades, it will be communicated to parents together with all necessary details. Adherence to physical distance requirements will necessitate that grades be staggered in a variety of ways once the school reaches its capacity. This may be accomplished **using different time slots on the same day or alternating days** depending on the size of the school.

Online school will continue for all grades that have not yet returned to school or for those students who are unable to return.

ALL THESE GRADES ABOVE WILL COMMENCE ON 1 JUNE.



SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENTS

As grades begin to return **there will be assessments and baseline benchmarking done** so as to ensure the efficacy of the online teaching. Furthermore, schools may well bring in other grades for very short periods in the initial weeks so as to complete required assessments. In each case when this is required, **the schools will communicate** these details to the parents.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD CANNOT RETURN TO SCHOOL?

We are well aware that some students will not be able to return due to having pre-existing medical conditions or are living with family members who may be in a high risk category. It is the intent of each of the schools to continue with online teaching for these students and the model **for this will be communicated by each of the schools during the course of this week.** In order to facilitate planning for the number of children who will return in the coming weeks you are all requested (this applies to all grades and pre-school groups) **to respond to the survey by no later than Tuesday 26 May 6pm.** This has a major impact on classrooms and logistical planning and as such your initial decision can only be changed after consultation with the school principal.

Please complete the **Return to School Parent Survey** so we get a better understanding of your family's specific needs:

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY HERE](#)



SCHOOL ARRIVAL

In order to ensure the ability to **screen students upon their arrival to school**, we will be instituting the following:

- Each school will initially have only one entry through which students will have to enter upon arrival in the morning or at any time during the day.
- Different starting times for grades will be implemented to reduce traffic when meeting the screening requirements.
- A period of time will be indicated for school arrival and screening prior to classes starting and parents are encouraged to not drop children in the last few minutes of the allotted time as they will then possibly miss the start of the academic day.
- Parents will not be permitted to walk into the school at school arrival time.
- Once more grades are permitted to return, additional access points will be opened.
- Every school will have a screening protocol as described in the "Screening protocol" on the following page.
- There will be sanitizer at every entrance which anyone entering will have to use without exception.
- Everyone entering is required to wear a material mask. (The school will provide 2, 3-ply material masks to each staff member and pupil, a mask needs to be labelled and washed daily. Depending on the decision of the Department of Education there may be times when staff and students will be permitted to wear face shields).
- Physical distancing of 1.5m-2m is required upon entry and at all other times including in classrooms and breaks.
- At any place where it is anticipated that there will be queuing there will be floor markings to indicate the distances required.
- Initially there will be no parent protection rosters and extra CSO staff will assist. As the number of entrances increases then security rosters will be put in place.

Please note that **should someone be feeling ill** they should not wait for the screening at the entrance, **they should remain at home for the day and join the online lessons.**
You are encouraged to err on the side of caution.

SCHOOL	ENTRANCE Students must use their designated entry
KD High Linksfield	High School Bedford street gate
KD High Victory Park	Craighall Road entrance
KD Senior Primary Linksfield	Bedford Street gate at entry to sports field (by pavillion)
KD Sandton	Only through the media centre gate
KD Primary Victory Park	Road No 3 walk in gate
KD Junior Primary Linksfield	Through the Hug and Go entry on Club Street
KD Ariel	Road No 3 walk in gate
KD Pre-Primary Linksfield	Bedford street entry
KD Pre-Primary Victory Park	Road No 3 Pre-Primary gate
Minnie Bersohn	School parking lot
KD RKNS in Waverley	School parking lot



SCREENING PROTOCOL

UPON ENTERING THE SCHOOL, **THE FOLLOWING SCREENING WILL TAKE PLACE:**



NB If the person screening has **good reason to be concerned**, the **student or staff member may be asked to leave** or be **requested to move to the isolation area.**



SCHOOL ORIENTATION

On the first day back or on the days before the school returns for some of our schools, students will be **given an orientation of all the requirements for the running of the school in a manner that upholds the highest standards of health and hygiene** and it is imperative that everyone take these seriously and adhere to them. All stakeholders will receive ongoing education and reminders in this regard. There will be implications for non-compliance as this places everyone in the environment at risk as well as the school's ability to operate. Staff have received a full document of their standard operating procedures and the consequences for non-compliance and schools will advise students of the school rules in this regard.

Each school will have an appointed 'compliance officer' and a team working with them and due process will be instituted for any staff or students not following the requirements. There will also be **ongoing temperature monitoring during the day** as is required by the Department of Education and should anyone's temperature be too high they will be placed in the designated isolated area until they can be fetched or are able to leave.

THE SCHOOL WILL HAVE **CLEAR HEALTH SIGNAGE REMINDING EVERYONE**
TO KEEP TO THE BASICS FOR PREVENTING INFECTION:

- ✓ Washing in the correct manner
- ✓ Sanitizing where washing is not available
- ✓ How to cough
- ✓ How to sneeze
- ✓ Keeping physical distance
- ✓ Wearing of masks including how to put a mask on and take it off
- ✓ Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth



CLASSROOMS

We are determined to **keep sufficient physical distancing in class and in the school environment.** This may lead to classes being divided where necessary or the use of larger venues where needed. In order to ensure that the classroom environment keeps to all health requirements, the following will be put in place:

- There will be **sanitizer at the entrance** to every class and venue and anyone entering or leaving the class will be **required to use the sanitizer on their hands.**
- Desks will be allocated to each student by the teacher. As per the Department of Education procedures, there will be an attempt to **not move children around.** That said, where there is a need for students to move, then the **surfaces and equipment will be cleaned** in-between classes.
- **Students and staff will wear masks at all times.** Teachers will be permitted to wear face shields only when they remain 2m away from students.
- Classroom **doors and windows** will be **kept open** if possible so as to keep natural ventilation. As such, please ensure that children dress warmly for school.
- There will be **no sharing** of books, stationery, tissues and equipment in the class during the day.

General Hygiene requirements will continue to be part of the school educational programme, this includes **the correct etiquette when sneezing and coughing.** While children are in class, the cleaning staff will be following their cleaning procedures in bathrooms and on other surfaces. When children are having breaks the cleaning staff will do further cleaning of surfaces in the classrooms.

SCHOOL BREAKS

Breaks during the day will be shorter so as to allow for eating and some relaxation and to avoid the need for students to compromise the physical distancing requirements. It must be noted that **tuckshops will not be opened** in schools and as such students must bring their own food for the day. The Pre-Primary schools will have their usual snack provided to them by the school.

- Schools will communicate the **daily schedules** to parents
- Students will be required to keep to **physical distancing requirements** in place from time-to-time
- There will be **no sharing of food**
- There will be **no sport or group games during break**
- Students will keep their **masks on unless they are eating**
- Everyone will **sanitize** their hands when **leaving for break** and then sanitize again when **returning to the class**

TEACHERS & SUPPORT STAFF

This document does not go into detail with regard to the procedures that we have put in place for our staff, be it our teachers, administrative staff or support staff. Rest assured that we have put **very clear operating procedures in place for everyone on the campus and compliance officers will be monitoring all round adherence for everyone.** Students often want to touch their teachers and show affection and teachers do reach out to students in permitted manners, yet during these times this will not be allowed and will be explained to students in an emotionally appropriate manner. **It would also be helpful if parents explained this further to their children in a sensitive manner.**



ADDITIONAL KEY INFORMATION

The regulations **against gatherings of 50 people or more are still in place** for schools and as such these gatherings will be avoided. This will impact on school assemblies and the manner in which davening can take place. **Furthermore, there will be:**

- **NO extra murals** until the government guidelines permit them to resume
- **Online extra murals** or enrichment **will still be offered**
- **NO transport on buses** until such time that we are able to ensure adherence to the requirements of the transport sector

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

In order to maintain adherence to protocols, the schools will minimise access to campuses during the school day. Anyone who is permitted to enter will **be screened in accordance with the arrival protocols**. The Department of Education operating procedures require that meetings, if needed, should **take place online if it is not necessary to meet in person**.

We do ask that parents please respect this requirement.

PROVISION OF PERMITS & MATERIALS BY SCHOOLS

Once the regulations for schools change, you may be required to have a permit issued from the school. If this is the case, then each school **will ensure that these are sent to families**. We also anticipate being able to **provide materials to those students who are continuing their studies at home** due to the phasing or due to not being able to go to school.

The schools will communicate with you about the collection of such materials.

FETCHING OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL

Upon leaving schools, **students will once again be required to sanitize or wash their hands**. Parents will not be permitted to enter the site so as to avoid gatherings or groups that contravene the requirement of physical distancing. Parents are also reminded to **remain in their cars and limit socialising where possible**. Each school will communicate with its parent body how school egress will be run so as to ensure all of the health and safety requirements are adhered to. The egress gates will be the same as the access gates for each school as listed above.



WILL IT BE SCHOOL AS NORMAL?

What is clear from the above, is that even with schools returning, it will not be school as normal. There will also be some changes in the delivery of the curriculum where required. Every effort will be made to focus on core subjects **in grades 1-9 upon the return to school** so as to ensure that students are fully up-to-date in literacy (all languages) and numeracy. Thus, school timetables may be different initially as schools consolidate key areas.

Where schooling does not take place on campus, it will continue remotely. It is difficult to plan for the long term in what has become a somewhat uncertain time and yet the school calendar will be adjusted as follows in the interim:

JUNE 1

School return
for the grades listed
above and successive
grades to be added
in the coming weeks

JUNE 15, 16

School
break

TERM 2

Ends on
July 8

TERM 3

Resumes on
20 July

[SEE THE IMPORTANT SUMMARY HERE](#)



SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL STUDENTS STARTING ON 1 JUNE

SCHOOL	GRADE	START/END TIMES	DROP OFF/ COLLECTION POINT	BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE DAY	SUBJECTS TO BE TAUGHT
KD High School Linkfield	Grade 12	9.00 Closing times will be communicated accordingly	Bedford Street gate	Timetable to follow same as online learning which will now start at 09:00	All subjects required for the NSC plus Jewish Studies
KD High School Victory Park	Grade 12	8:00 - Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30 - Tuesday and Thursday Closing times variable according to the Semester 2 Block Teaching Timetable	Craighall Road. <i>Matrics driving their own cars are to drop off any passengers at Craighall Road entrance and then they may proceed to park their cars in the school.</i>	According to the Semester 2 Block Teaching Timetable	All subjects required for the NSC plus Jewish Studies
KD Senior Primary Linkfield	Grade 7	7.45 - Arrival and screening 8.15 - Davening and lessons begin 11.30 - School ends	Sports field gate Bedford Street - by Pavillion <i>Bedford reception gate during the school day</i>	Four core lessons per day plus 1 break	English, Afrikaans/ Zulu, Hebrew, Maths. Jewish Studies once a week



KD Sandton	Grade 7	7:45 - Arrival and screening 8:15 - Davening and lessons begin 11:30 - School ends	Media Centre gate	Four core lessons per day plus 1 break	English, Afrikaans/ Zulu, Hebrew, Maths. Jewish Studies once a week
KD Primary Victory Park	Grade 7	7:45 - Arrival and screening 8:15 - Davening and lessons begin 11:30 - School ends	Road No 3 Gate	Four core lessons per day plus 1 break	English, Afrikaans/ Zulu, Hebrew, Maths. Jewish Studies once a week
KD Junior Primary Linksfeld	Grade 1	GR 1-1 & GR 1-3: 7.30 - Arrival and screening 8.00 - Davening and lessons begin 11.00 - School ends GR 1-5 & GR 1-6 8.00 - Arrival and screening 8.30 - Davening and lessons begin 11.30 - School ends	Hug & Go drop off zone - Club Street	3 core lessons per day plus 1 break	Maths, English, Hebrew. Jewish Studies once a week
KD Ariel	Grade 1	7.45 - Arrival & screening 8.15 - Davening and lessons begin 11:15 - School ends	Road No 3 Gate	Three core lessons per day plus 2 mini breaks	English, Hebrew, Maths, Afrikaans
KD Pre-Primary Linksfeld	Grade R	8:00 - Arrival and screening 9:00 - Lessons begin 12:00 - School ends	Bedford Road	Lessons and outside time	Numeracy, literacy, life-skills, Hebrew, speech, Jewish studies, art
KD Pre-Primary Victory Park	Grade R	8:00 - Arrival and screening 9:00 - Lessons begin 12:00 - School ends	Road No 3 Gate	Lessons and outside time	Numeracy, literacy, life-skills, Hebrew, speech, Jewish studies, art
Minnie Bersohn	Grade R	8:00 - Arrival and screening 9:00 - Lessons begin 12:00 - School ends	Parking lot	Lessons and outside time	Numeracy, literacy, life-skills, Hebrew, speech, Jewish studies, art
King David Rosabelle Klein Waverley	Grade R	8:00 - Arrival and screening 9:00 - Lessons begin 12:00 - School ends	Parking lot	Lessons and outside time	Numeracy, literacy, life-skills, Hebrew, speech, Jewish studies, art
KD Sandton	Grade R <i>(only starting on Thursday 4 June)</i>	8.30 - Arrival and screening 9.00 - Lessons begin 11.00 - School ends	Media Centre gate	Lessons and outside time	Numeracy, Literacy, Hebrew. Jewish Studies once a week



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR COVID-19 CONTAINMENT

The schools have **completed a full risk assessment** of the schools and in response to these have instituted operating procedures across the campuses so as to mitigate the transmission of the virus. The operating procedures are in accordance with those gazetted and are considered to be reasonable so as to avoid the spread of the virus. It is, as mentioned, incumbent on every individual to keep to these requirements, and for parents to insist that their children adhere to these requirements at all times.

Non-compliance or the use of any bullying tactics related to the virus or any form of discrimination **against someone who may have tested positive for the virus will be seen in the most serious light.**

[SEE COVID RELATED QUERIES](#)



COVID RELATED QUERIES

WHAT HAPPENS IF SOMEONE HAS OR IS SUSPECTED TO HAVE COVID-19? GUIDELINES FOR SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES IN THE SCHOOL

While every effort and precaution will be taken to avoid infections within the school environment, we do need to be realistic with the knowledge that COVID-19 will be with us for many months to come. **It is for this reason that the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) have put protocols in place for schools to follow.**

These are updated from time-to-time and are available below:

[SEE NICD PROTOCOLS HERE](#)



WHAT WILL THE SCHOOL DO IF THERE IS A SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19?

1

IF A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER **APPEARS ILL OR DISPLAYS SYMPTOMS** ASSOCIATED WITH **COVID-19**:

- They will be isolated from other students and staff in the designated area
- In the case of a student the parents will be contacted
- In the case of a staff member, arrangements will be made for them to get assessed by a health professional

2

IF A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER **IS CONFIRMED TO HAVE COVID-19**:

- They will be isolated from the other students and staff in the designated area
- Arrangements will be made for them to leave the school premises
- The relevant public health officials will be contacted who will then conduct a risk-assessment and give recommendations for the management of students and staff
- In most cases a school closure will not be necessary yet the school will be guided by the NICD in this regard. If a school is closed, it will be required to consult with the NICD before opening once again

3

IF A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER MAY **HAVE BEEN EXPOSED** TO SOMEONE WHO IS **SUSPECTED OF HAVING COVID-19**:

- No restrictions are required while awaiting the outcome of the laboratory tests
- There is no need for that student or staff member to remain at home

4

IF A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER **WERE EXPOSED TO A CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASE**:

- All close contacts of confirmed cases are required to quarantine at home for 14 days while being monitored for symptoms and may not attend school
- Secondary contacts (i.e. those who came into contact with the person who was in contact with the positive case) do not need to take precautions unless they begin to develop symptoms

The school is required to keep daily records of all who were at school so as to assist the health officials in any situation where tracing may be required



CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the above steps are intended to be the reasonable steps, in line with the Minister's announcement for schools to return. The King David Schools intend to follow such reasonable procedures and staff, parents and pupils are all responsible in assisting us to adhere to these procedures.

There may well be a change in the levels announced by the President and this will necessitate the schools moving between face-to-face schooling and remote teaching.

This may also be caused by cases of COVID in the school requiring classes or grades to move to remote teaching. **We will all need to be aware of the uncertain period we are moving into and your understanding, patience and co-operation will be required** through this phase. SABJE will at all times ensure that the highest levels of hygiene and safety precautions are instituted in our schools.

THANK YOU

