



Safety First – School Return – SSTA Survey– 1 September 2020

Appendix B - A Selection of Members Comments

“Let’s not pretend. Teachers don’t feel safe because teachers are not safe. Teachers will only be safe when class numbers are low enough to impose 2m distances between each pupil at all times, when appropriate ventilation systems are in use in every school (and I’m not talking about opening the windows wide to the Scottish weather) and when face coverings are worn by all pupils during classes”.

“School is not supporting social distancing and hygiene measures in the practical classroom because ‘there is no guidance’ for Home Economics. No changes made to accommodate distancing, cleaning and no time needed to plan additional lessons to replace any practical”.

“Where is all the additional staffing that the Scottish Government talk of employing and sending into schools? We are expected to teach the students in front of us and send work to students in isolation. Time must be made available to do this... currently it is not”.

“Covid seems to be being treated as an inconvenience to teaching. I am concerned at the lack of consistency across the country and that schools are subject to different rules when compared to every other workplace (especially with regards to distancing)”.

“While teachers would not feel safe if the Scottish Government admitted that they have thrown us under the bus, we would at least feel that our intelligence wasn’t being insulted. More and more this week I have been hearing “when, not if”. Teachers now expect to get sick. We expect to contract Covid and to potentially spread it amongst our communities and loved ones. How on Earth are we expected, under these very real circumstances, to feel safe?”

“The pupils are expected to clean the equipment that they have used. I am expected to also clean my area. There are very few hand sanitiser machines around the school even although classrooms have them. Absolutely NO posters or signage to remind pupils to keep left, social distance or wash hands frequently. YOU WOULD NOT THINK THERE WAS A VIRUS”.

“Pupils are expected to clean their desk & chair BEFORE they sit down as are we when we change classrooms to teach. Sharing rooms with other staff seems a little bit risky. Children & staff often forget about physical distancing”.

“My concern is largely with the fact that my colleagues in my own department are NOT social distancing. The seating in our base is exactly as it was pre Covid which means staff are literally sitting side by side around a table”.

“The staff room has been divided up and there are clear social distancing markers set up. However this means that out of sixty staff. There are only 15 seats available. I eat and take my break in the classroom. This is incredibly isolating and lonely and the impact on mental health of this has not been addressed. Teachers are the bottom of the pile in this respect”.

“The day cleaner informed me that the expectation is now that staff do the cleaning. I concluded from that that alternative would be for teachers to allow the class to each take a turn of the spray bottle and pass the one microfibre cloth around the room”.

“Our local authority appear to be running out of cleaning supplies (which pupils need to use at every lesson) and there is talk of staff having to use water based spray on pupils' desks in between each lesson instead of the alcohol wipes currently being used”.

“I am concerned about having to be in close proximity of my pupils due to the amount of support they require. I am also concerned about the amount of sharing of resources taking place due to a lack of resources”.

“All pupils should wear face masks ALL day. In and out of classes. I feel NOT protected in a classroom with 30 pupils talking and breathing even if i were to keep 2 meters distance at all time. Its just farcical that anyone can assume that the virus stops just two meters from my desk in a room with stagnant air”.

“Staff are doing their best to keep 2m away from other staff and pupils. There is no social distancing being pupils in classes. It is concerning to hear the government talk of no need for pupils to wear masks in class because they can distance more easily. In reality, the pupils are closer together, so they can be further from staff. I fear for the health of the pupils I teach as well as my own”.

“We have already been told to reduce the cleaning to just at the start of periods to reduce the number of wipes used”.

“Clearer guidance across council areas is required. Even within council areas, advice is being interpreted and implemented differently. This is causing angst amongst staff”.