

Schools Reopening Reps Survey Results

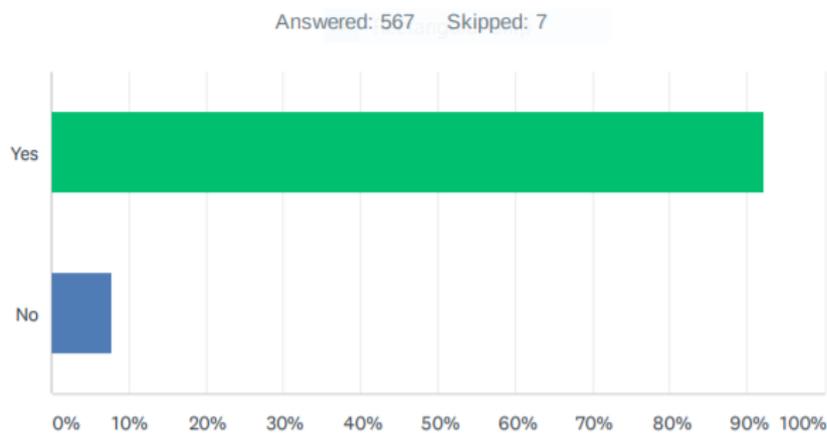
On Tuesday 18th August, the EIS send a survey to all school reps concerning the reopening of Scotland's schools. The survey was closed at 5pm on Sunday 30th August.

Glasgow, Perth and Kinross and Argyll and Bute had already initiated their own surveys locally and so were not included. The survey was sent to a total of 1615 schools reps and had a total of 583 responses – a return rate of 36%.

This report gives a breakdown of responses to each question in the survey. A selection of comments made by respondents have been included beneath the relevant questions.

Questions 1 and 2 of the survey asked members to identify their school name and local authority in order to break down the results by LA more easily at a later stage.

Q3 Have Risk Assessments been updated and shared with staff and the union?



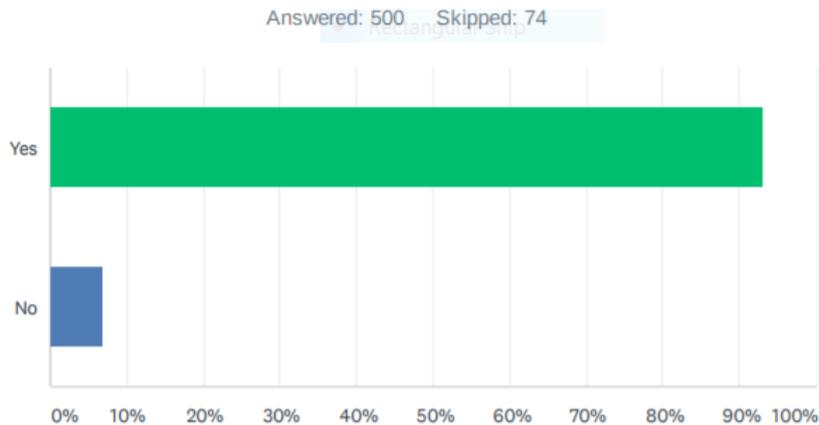
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	92.24% 523
No	7.76% 44
TOTAL	567

Comments:

- "Yes, HT sent them out. They were also discussed at great length at the SRG. They are also constantly being updated and renewed. Practical subjects are currently completing new risk assessments to allow for lessons to take place where pupils can move around. NLC have said no to PE changing rooms, drama classes, science experiments and choir much to the frustration of staff as this is not the case in many other councils."
- Staff meetings were held last week and EIS guidance was discussed. However, things keep changing and require constant updating. Some of the guidance remains unclear.

- H&S and Risk Assessment have been shared with all staff (including specific risk assessments with identified individuals). HT will continually update and advise staff to changes.

Q4 Have members (previously shielding, pregnant and BAME teachers) requesting bespoke risk assessments been supported in this?



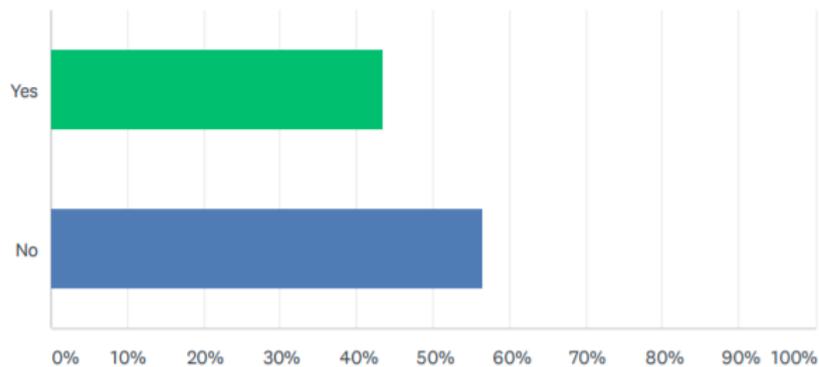
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	93.00%	465
No	7.00%	35
TOTAL		500

Comments:

- Bespoke RA have been given to those who requested them and were dealt with by HR in the council in the first instance. This did results in a delay to them being processed and some staff not returning to work straightaway.
- As an individual in the high-risk group, I do not feel adequate measures are in place. The corridors, classrooms and movement around the building remains as crowded as pre-covid.
- Support within school has been very good but the council have been slow to respond to specific queries.

Q5 Are there any obvious deficiencies in the Covid Protocols which are in place?

Answered: 557 Skipped: 17



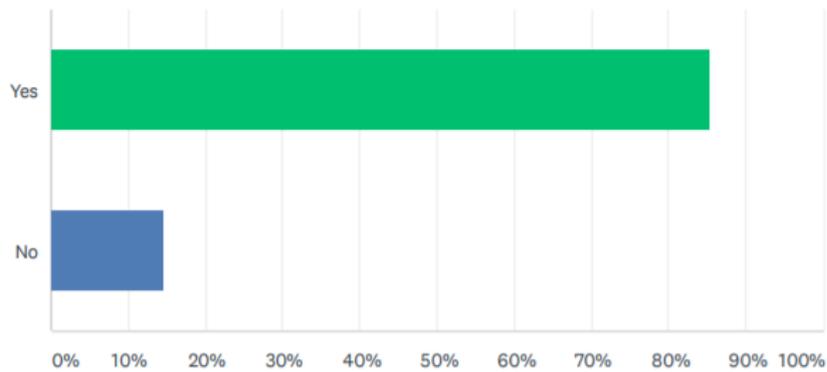
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	43.45%	242
No	56.55%	315
TOTAL		557

Comments:

- Adults trying to keep socially distanced from the children is very difficult. Cleaning of resources difficult to manage particularly in lower primary classes.
- Each teacher was given two face masks at the start of term, as we are now in week three, we are waiting to be issued with more, but I trust our school management to provide these when they become available. Not enough space for social distancing between all senior pupils. Even if we could spread the out, they are in very close contact in between classes. Although BGE classes have separate break times from senior classes, I think more might need to be done to keep senior pupils maintaining some form of social distancing at all times or wear a face mask. They need to be treated like adults.
- I feel there are not enough hand sanitisers in place. There is no one way system in place to alleviate crowding as when staff and pupils move round about the school. There are no markings on floors in corridors to support social distancing.

Q6 Have enhanced cleaning protocols been shared with staff and implemented?

Answered: 564 Skipped: 10

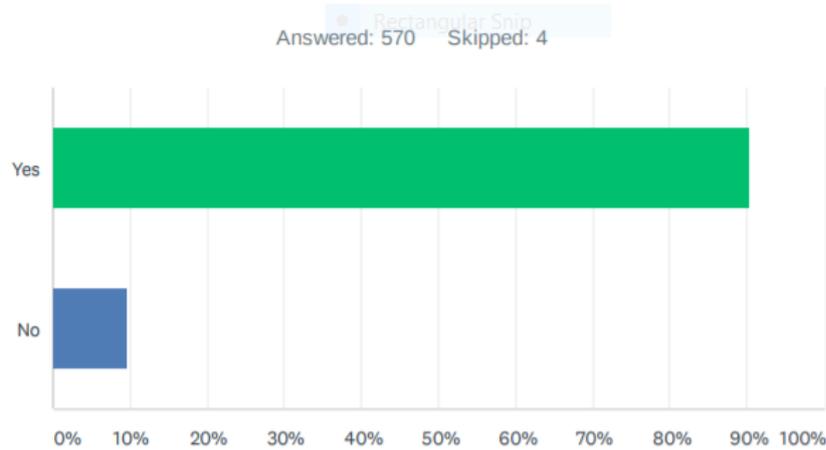


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	85.28%	481
No	14.72%	83
TOTAL		564

Comments:

- The school has shared explicit details about cleaning, but not from the local authority.
- Additional cleaning in place but staff unsure of procedure / protocol.
- Quite significant concerns with regards to janitorial staff only having 15 minutes to complete enhanced cleaning (cleaning all touch points in school). Time frame given is not adequate to thoroughly clean all touch points in school.

Q7 Have appropriate cleaning materials been provided in each classroom for wiping down resources between use, etc.?



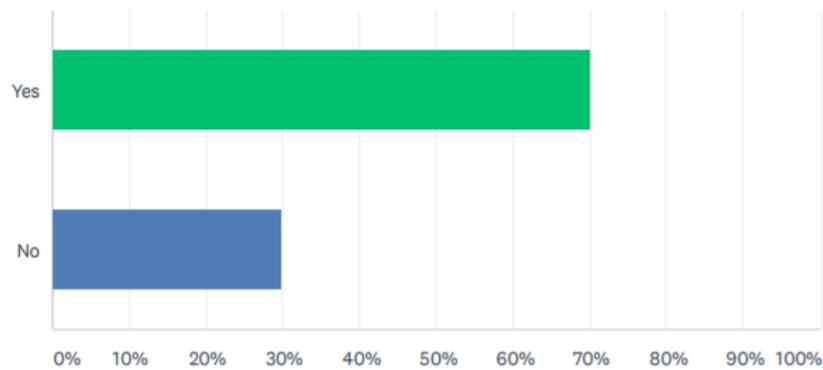
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.35%	515
No	9.65%	55
TOTAL		570

Comments:

- Yes, but more practical ways of shortening the regime need to be looked at as the impact on teaching through lost time is terrible. Have schools considered use of electrostatic sprays where appropriate to maximise class teaching, reduce waste products and use of other cleaning products?
- But only just recently all in place...school was open for some time before e.g. wipes for electricals were in place.
- This again is not consistent. Different wipes for electronics have been bought but not distributed yet. Some staff have sprays, others don't.

Q8 Are the arrangements for physical distancing between staff and pupils clearly in place?

Answered: 563 and Skipped: 11



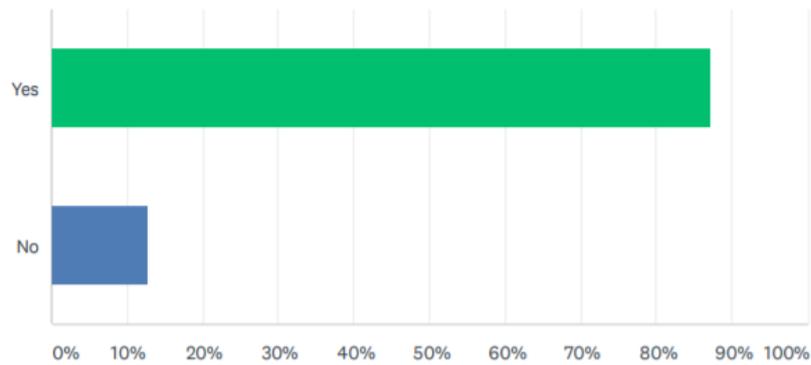
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	70.16%	395
No	29.84%	168
TOTAL		563

Comments:

- We have done the best we can, however the rooms and corridors are small making it very difficult to maintain distancing between staff and pupils. Younger pupils find it impossible to keep their distance from staff.
- Staff are finding this very difficult as guidance has changed again since schools returned and children can now work in groups, so class set ups changed again at a days' notice causing staff even more work and stress. Staff trying their best to adhere to distancing from pupils, but this just isn't always possible for so many reasons.
- This is difficult as our students are diagnosed with ASD and most have learning difficulties, so any social distancing is likely to make them anxious. However, by changing timetables we minimise their exposure to other students and teachers from other classes.

Q9 Are the arrangements for physical distancing between all staff clearly in place?

Answered: 566 Skipped: 8



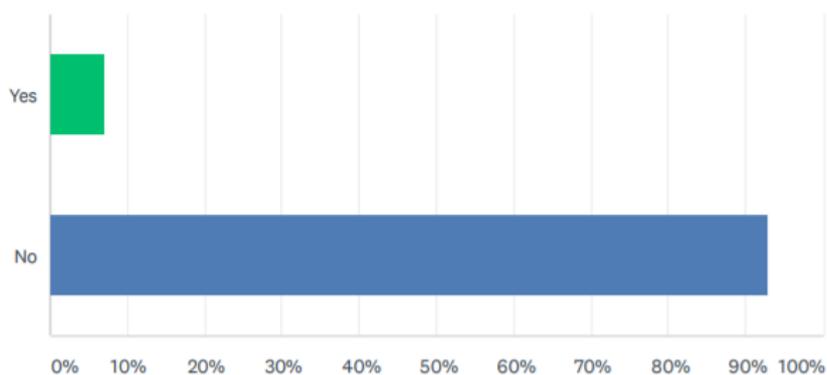
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	87.28%	494
No	12.72%	72
TOTAL		566

Comments:

- Staggered breaks, start times and finishing times help with social distancing.
- Some staff are feeling isolated due to not being allowed to socialise in the staff room.
- Advice is given to staff to keep 2m apart as much as possible or wear face coverings after 15 minutes of interaction in a confined space, but it is impossible to check if all staff continuously and rigorously adhere to these. Need clearer guidelines on face coverings.

Q10 Have class sizes been reduced at all to support physical distancing?

Answered: 556 Skipped: 18



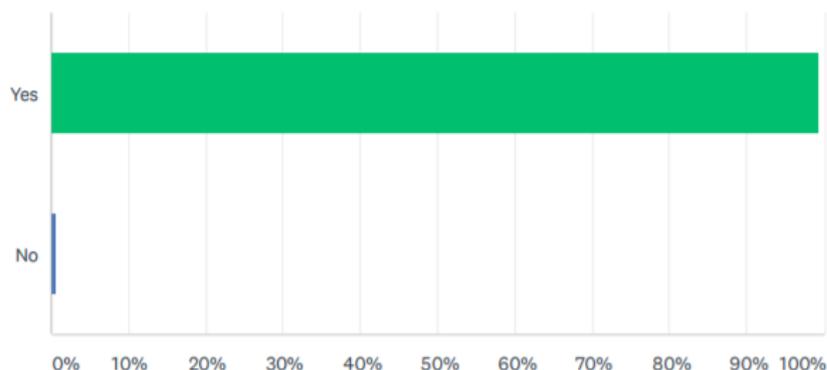
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	7.19%	40
No	92.81%	516
TOTAL		556

Comments:

- The law states the number of people inside homes we can have but in school this goes out the window. Up to 33 different households in one room. We have several higher risk staff as well and this causes high anxiety. Other staff are worried about going home and passing on something to their own families and vulnerable members.
- The number of students has not been reduced but their timetables have been changed to support physical distancing.
- How can class sizes be reduced when the government have sent all children back to school at once? We have no extra classrooms or teachers to implement this.

Q11 Are staff and pupils being allowed to wear face coverings if they wish to?

Answered: 571 Skipped: 3



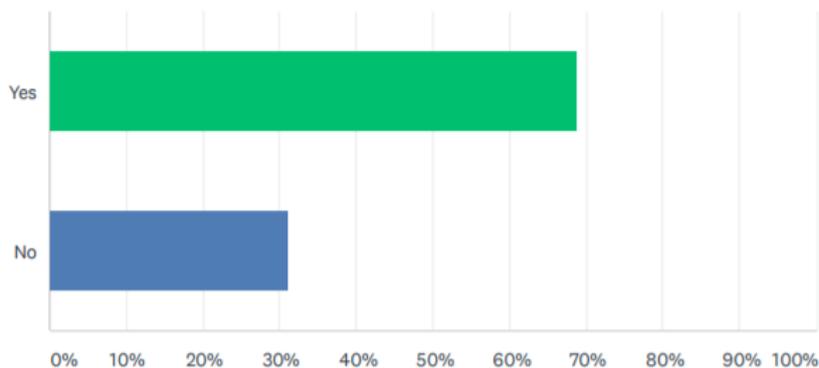
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	99.30%	567
No	0.70%	4
TOTAL		571

Comments:

- HT has provided masks, visors and gloves for all staff and there is a stock available in staff areas which is replenished when needed. She is very supportive in people's choice to wear and encouraging where she sees it difficult to maintain 2m.
- Staff yes, children no. It is seen as less safe for children who are likely to abandon the mask mid-day and cause more potential risk by leaving them lying around or taking someone else's.
- But it is inconsistent. Voice is harder to project and visors make it hard to hear pupils. We are an open plan school. This is a problem at the best of times.

Q12 Are face coverings in use where 2m distancing cannot be maintained and especially where interactions exceed 15 minutes in duration?

Answered: 537 Skipped: 37



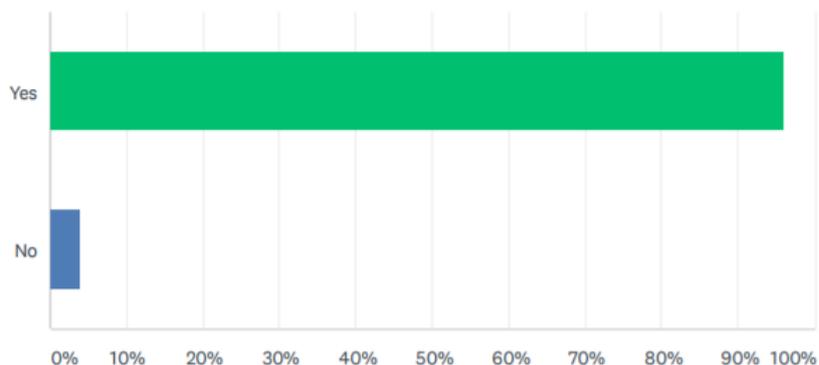
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	68.90%	370
No	31.10%	167
TOTAL		537

Comments:

- Very few pupils wear them in class. This may change as on Monday staff have indicated that they will struggle to teach with a mask on. Staff are prepared to wear them in corridors and communal areas, but crowd control is a concern. Learning support are worried for those pupils who need facial clues to understand the world around them.
- This is school protocol however this is not always being followed by staff as small classrooms and large numbers of children makes socially distancing challenging – masks would have to be worn nearly all of the time and staff are reluctant to do so due to various needs in their classrooms (ASN, EAL, SAL etc).
- As far as it is reasonable with staff members, and staff and pupils in the corridors. But teaching in a mask is incredible challenging at all stages, especially in the early stages when teaching phonics.

Q13 Are hand-hygiene protocols firmly in place, with soap and water/ hand sanitiser readily accessible to all in the school/ educational setting?

Answered: 568 Skipped: 6



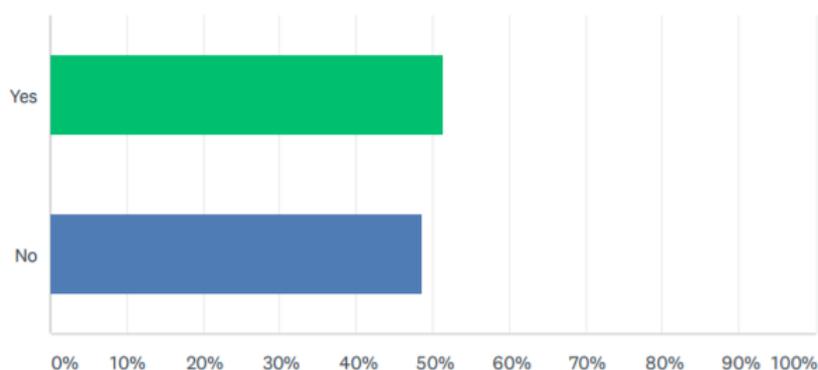
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	96.13%	546
No	3.87%	22
TOTAL		568

Comments:

- Routines are well established and soap / paper towels are regularly replaced. Sanitiser is available for all staff, currently not provided to pupils.
- Yes, plenty of sanitiser, but there is limited use of soap and water due to lack of facilities around the school.
- In every classroom, all entrances and free-standing ones that are battery operated in main pupil areas. Should be standard usage for all schools in Scotland and UK.

Q14 If you are a secondary school, has the timetable been adjusted to minimise movement and support stable pupil groupings e.g. double period timetabling, register class groupings?

Answered: 181 Skipped: 393



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	51.38%	93
No	48.62%	88
TOTAL		181

Comments:

- Yes, but this is largely ineffective when pupils are still allowed to not distance at break times and lunch times in particular.
- Partially. One-way system, staggered starts, breaks and end of day. No restructuring of timetable. It is as would be post covid.
- As far as staff are aware, there was not any attempt to adjust the timetable, either for the whole school or for individual, at risk staff. (Though I will say that some vulnerable staff were concerned about the suggestion that junior pupils could stay in one place and staff move as it would not reduce the number of pupils or classes staff see but could bring them into contact with more pupils in enclosed corridors as they move around and would bring them into contact with more touch points and surfaces throughout the building.)

The final question of the survey asked respondents if they would like to leave any additional comments, 288 respondents chose to. Below is a small sample of some of these comments.

- We are trying very hard to make our current situation work and create some sort of normality for pupils. Understandably staff are anxious and worried for their own health. The main concerns are the class sizes and lack of ventilation. The building is old, and ventilation has always been an issue however with the increased number of pupils in classes, staff feel let down by the council. At the moment, we are short of a drama teacher, music teacher, computing teacher and RE teacher. Cover in the school is tight with all staff currently well and at work. There is a real worry that if staff get sick or are off, we will not be able to cope.
- School has been very supportive, and guidance and rules are in place. However, it is impossible to help children and teach to the best of my ability without getting much closer than 2 metres.
- I believe our school is doing everything within its power to adhere to guidelines and keep our staff and children safe. Daily rule amendments and updates are shared with all staff upon entering the building.
- Schools should not have opened when they did due to lack of supplies and time to arrange / make classrooms safe. We should have had a second in-set day to support staff with school prep. Our schools were not accessible during the summer holidays and were emptied prior. P1 and P2 teachers are finding cleaning and safe use of resources challenging and impacting on workload.
- Ventilation in some rooms is very poor and I have concerns about air quality at the best of times.
- Lots of questions / confusion over little details such as collecting and marking jotters, who is to clean in between groups, and inconsistencies between schools in the same area. For example, gym kits to be brought in or worn on the day, lunch items to be disposed of in school or taken home, reading books home or not, playground zones or not.
- We have everything in our risk assessments in place, very pleased given the circumstances.
- We wish there were clearer guidance. Physical distancing of 2m between pupils and staff in a primary school is nigh on impossible. This is due to the numbers of pupils in each class, the physical space and the design of the building and the age of the pupils.
- The whole aspect of ASN and the lack of appropriate guidance etc has been a significant challenge with staff feeling very vulnerable as they try to support those with varied ASN, particularly with those who have complex needs. Another aspect that has become a real concern is the use of seemis codes related to covid which highlight certain aspects to staff. This is often misinterpreted and has caused a real increase in concern amongst staff as a whole and those who are vulnerable in particular.
- I think that the HT has done her best to implement covid safe practices, but it is difficult to teach in a class and not be able to collect in letters and give out worksheets. I think that some staff are becoming complacent with social distancing.
- The advice from the government is impossible to follow, in the mainstream and ASN settings in our school. I expect covid cases in the near future.