



Bubbles and how they work

You will notice the government and this pack referring to “bubbles”. By this, we purely mean a group of students and staff who are consistent in their grouping.

On 10th July 2020 the DfE announced updated ‘bubble’ guidance. It now reads that “As far as it is possible, groups should also not be mixing within the setting itself.”

Bubbles are still capped at 15 children PLUS staff. Even if your venue can hold more, children must be in these sized groups. However, depending on the size of your venue and social distancing requirements you may have to have under that number.

HOW BUBBLES WORK:

Bubbles reduce the risk of cross-infection. These groups of children are, *as far as possible*, to have no interaction, aside from cross-bubble management staff (such as a trained DSL or Paediatric First Aider) if proper social distancing is observed.

Providers must use their best judgement when working out groups in order to minimise the amount of ‘mixing’ (for example, the number of different people each child encounters). This means that students at your school who are taught by numerous teachers, in different classes, may need to only pick one or two, or you might need to look at timetabling.

As bubbles use the same facilities (i.e. rooms and toilets) it might also reduce the need for deep cleaning, although cleaning of high-contact points is still enforced. Bubbles may also share facilities so long as proper cleaning and social distancing is in place.

Bubbles also assist with Track and Trace. Should a child become unwell with COVID-19, advice from Track and Trace may be that the rest of their class or group within the setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days, but assuming social distancing has been observed this might not be necessary.