# **Technical Document 1: International comparisons of school policies**

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**Table 1. Macro school policies used in select countries**

| **Country** | **Who is responsible for the opening strategy?** | **Which schools are open?** | **When did schools open?** | **Are schools operating at full capacity?** | **Are there plans for future national/ regional school closures?** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Germany** | The federal government provides national recommendations, but the responsibility lies with the 16 states. | All schools and early care centres. | All schools were open by 6th May 2020 after 7 weeks of closures. | No. Schools will be back to normal from August 2020. | No, local level closures will be implemented if there is a surge in cases. |
| **Italy** | National guidance to be released on 25th June. However, schools have the autonomy to decide how to manage NPIs. | All schools and early care centres. | They are not open. They have been closed since 4th March 2020. | No. Schools will open in September 2020 | Not known. |
| **France** | Central government provided guidelines with flexibility left to local authorities. | All schools and early care centres. | Phased opening from May 8th after nation-wide closures from 16th March. | Yes, since 22nd June except for lycées. Attendance is now compulsory | No |
| **Spain** | Central government provided guidelines with flexibility left to the regional governments. | Primary schools and early care centres | Schools closed in mid-March. Phased openings have occurred since May 25th enabling some children to attend. | No. Schools will be operating at close to normal capacity by September 202. Although distancing measures will likely still be in place. | No known |
| **Denmark** | Guidance is provided by the cabinet of Denmark (nationally), but municipalities determine how schools open. | All schools and early care centres. | All schools were open by 15th April 2020 after 1 month of closures (13th March).. | No. Schools will be operating at close to normal capacity - with no mandatory distancing - from 1 August 2020. | No, local level closures will be implemented if there is a surge in cases. |
| **Israel** | Decision making on reopening has been mostly made at a national level | All schools and early care centres. | 3rd May after 7 weeks of closures for most pupils. | No. | No. Local areas are quarantined if the number of cases surges. |
| **New Zealand** | Decision making on reopening has been mostly made at a national level | All schools and early care centres | On 29th April, after 1 month of closures from ~23rd March.. | Yes, schools opened without mandatory distancing measures from 9th June. | No |
| **Australia** | Guidance is provided by the federal government and the national cabinet, but states and territories ultimately decide how to manage schools. | All schools and early care centres. | Schools were never officially shut across the country. Although the majority of states encouraged physical distancing or closed schools from 22nd March. On April 12, the federal government encouraged states to reopen where they had shut schools. | Yes, on 15th June or 3rd week of July depending on the state or territory. | No |

**Table 2. Micro policies used in schools to reduce COVID-19 transmission**

| **School Intervention** | **Germany** | **France** | **Spain** | **Denmark** | **Israel** | **New Zealand** | **Australia** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Phased opening:** *Groups who were prioritised for the initial phase of opening* | An inconsistent approach was used by states. | Children of essential workers, those in kindergarten and primary schools, followed closely by older children | Children under the age of six and those with special needs | Children of key workers, those who need supervision: early years to 11 years and children with disabilities. | Children in grades 1-3 and 11-12 could return to school for phased in-person teaching from the 3rd May or to attend revision classes before key exams. | Primary to secondary school from years 1-10 (aged 5-15 years) | Those who could not work for home were encouraged to attend. However, an inconsistent approach was used by states. |
| **Mix of in-person and virtual learning** | Blended online and in-person learning is in place. Full capacity in-person instruction to be implemented by August 2020 | Blended online and in-person learning has been used since May.  Full capacity in-person instruction is in place for most children since 22nd June | Mostly online learning, with the exception of under six years. Blended learning to take place from September | Blended online and in-person learning is in place.  Full capacity in-person instruction to be implemented by 1st August 2020 | Blended learning | Previously, blended learning was used. | Previously, blended learning was used. |
| *Distancing length* | 1.5m | 1m Since 22nd June for all children other than those in lycées, this only applies for pupils in different classes or groups. No distancing is required in classrooms or outdoors | 1.5m for those in 5th grade or above only. | 6 feet when schools first opened. This was reduced to 1 meter after 6 weeks, excluding those in kindergarten.  *It will not be mandatory from 1st August 2020* | 2m | Previously 2m. Distancing is no longer required. | Previously, a 1.5m distance was maintained outside of classrooms for children and at all times for teachers. This is no longer mandated |
| *Maximum number of pupils per class* | 10 | Previously 10 or 15.  There is now no limit | 20 | 12 until 1st August 2020 | This is calculated based on distancing rules | Previously 10, and later 20. Now there are no restrictions | N/A |
| *Use of restricted micro-groups* | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes. No longer in use | Yes |
| *Staggered start and break times* | Yes | No | N/A | Yes | Yes | Yes. No longer in use | Yes. No longer in use |
| *One-way systems* | Yes | N/A | N/A | Yes | Yes | Yes. No longer in use | Yes. No longer in use |
| **Off-site group learning** | No | N/A | Yes, there are plans to make use of gyms, libraries and halls outside of the school setting to facilitate distancing | Yes, where possible lessons are conducted outdoors or in non-used spaces, e.g. stadiums | N/A | N/A | Yes. No longer in use |
| **Visitors/parents allowed in schools** | No | No until 22nd June. Visitors must wear a mask on school property. | N/A | No | No | Previously limited. There are no longer any restrictions | Previously, no. |
| **Hygiene Measures**  *Enhanced facilities and products for handwashing* | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| **Use of Personal Protective Equipment** | Masks must be worn in communal areas.  In classrooms, use is recommended | Previously compulsory for all students and pupils. Now, teachers and pupils aged 11 years and above must wear masks when 1 m distancing cannot be maintained. Pupils in middle and high schools must wear face coverings while travelling. | No, except for students in 5th grade of primary school and above and staff where distancing of 1.5m cannot be implemented. It will also be mandatory for those aged 6 and above while on transport. | No | Masks are worn in open areas during breaks. Students in fourth grade and above always have to wear a mask except when exercising. | No. | No |
| **Case management** | School attendance and symptoms are documented for tracing Symptomatic pupils or staff are tested Symptomatic pupils or staff stay at home | Since 28th April 2020, anyone in contact with infected individuals is able to get tested. Staff or students with symptoms must isolate for 14 days. | Students with symptoms are isolated, provided a mask and sent home for isolation | Since May 18th, all adults are able to be tested. Only children who are symptomatic are tested. Symptomatic persons are put into isolation. | Parents have to sign a health form confirming their child and/or family members do not have COVID-19 before being permitted into the school If any child displays symptoms they must go into isolation immediately. One positive case results in the whole school getting tested | Symptomatic children are isolated and a public Healthline is used to report cases. Children are not always tested. Contact tracing must be in place to record cases. | Symptomatic children are isolated and a public Healthline is used to report cases. Contact tracing must be in place to record cases. |
| **Policies for vulnerable staff or students** | Staff and students who are "vulnerable" to work from home. Although staff are increasingly being brought back into schools. | N/A | N/A | Teachers at risk or who have family members in the vulnerable category are teaching online classes from home | N/A | High-risk groups have only been required to take "extra precaution when leaving the home". | Previously, shielding of at-risk and vulnerable groups, e.g. people over 65 years and those with chronic medical conditions and Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander people over 50 with chronic medical conditions. |
| **Other** | N/A | N/A | Partitions may be used to facilitate distancing in children in 5th grade and above. | N/A | No physical contact at all In Israel, children cannot check books out of libraries, share food, borrow pencils/pens from other pupils | N/A | Previously, classroom decluttering a restriction on mobile phone use was encouraged. |