

# Understanding Social Distancing

Social distancing is something that is introduced by a government. It includes asking people to do things that can help to stop a virus from spreading quickly from person to person.

Social distancing might include:

- staying at home as much as possible;
- only meeting people outside and at a safe distance;
- avoiding going inside other people's homes.

## What Might Social Distancing Look Like?

Social distancing might mean that some normal activities look a bit different. This is because social distancing often asks people to stay a safe distance away from others who don't live in the same home as them.

These stories are from children who are socially distancing.

Myra and Jagrati are sisters. They've noticed that a few things have changed at home. Usually, their house is busy with people but they've not had many visitors recently. As they've not been able to see their grandparents in person for a while, they have been chatting with them on video calls. Last week, they even put on a play that they had written themselves. Everyone found it really funny! Although they miss seeing their grandparents in person, they know that staying at a distance is helping to keep everyone safe.



## Understanding Social Distancing

Jozef and Donal have recently gone back to school. At first, things felt strange but they soon got used to a new way of working. Outside, there are arrows and lines on the floor that help people to keep a safe distance apart. In their classroom, everyone has their own safe space to work in. They've also found that there are lots of fun games that they can play together while keeping a safe distance apart. Although their class is smaller than it used to be, they're happy that they can see each other every day.



## How Long Does Social Distancing Last For?

It can be difficult to know how long social distancing will last for. This is because there are lots of things that a government has to think about before they can tell people to stop social distancing. It's important to remember that it won't last forever and that it's helping to keep people safe.

## Questions

1. Who do Myra and Jagrati speak to on video calls? Tick one.

- ☐ each other
- ☐ their grandparents
- ☐ their parents
- ☐ their teacher

2. Which of these is **not** an example of social distancing? Tick one.

- ☐ Staying at home as much as possible.
- ☐ Meeting people outside at a safe distance.
- ☐ Not going inside people's houses.
- ☐ Meeting lots of different people inside.

3. Who introduces social distancing? Tick one.

- ☐ the government
- ☐ teachers
- ☐ doctors
- ☐ nurses

4. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.

At first, things felt strange when...

It can be difficult to know...

Everyone found it really funny when...

Myra and Jagrati put on a play.

how long social distancing will last for.

Jozef and Donal went back to school.

5. Fill in the missing words.

Social distancing often asks people to stay a safe \_\_\_\_\_ away from others who don't live in the same \_\_\_\_\_ as them.

6. Look at the first paragraph.

Find and copy one word which means the same as **passing**.

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7. Explain how Jozef and Donal might have been feeling when they went back to school.

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