

Parent Update
Phased Reopening - FAQs

Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope that you are all safe and well. Following the Government's guidance regarding the potential wider reopening of schools, we are keen to provide you with as much information as possible at this time, to help you plan for the weeks and months ahead.

Therefore, we have compiled a list of frequently asked questions, with our responses;

- I have a child in Nursery/ Reception/Y1/Y6 and I am not a key worker. Will my child be guaranteed a return to school from June 1st?

In short, no. We cannot guarantee this at this point. It is important to understand that *other than for the children of key workers and vulnerable pupils*, places for Y6 from June 1st will be limited by risk assessment.

- Why can't my school confirm their arrangements for reopening now, so we can plan ahead ourselves?

No school can widen its educational offer beyond the children of key workers and vulnerable pupils until the government has confirmed that it is safe to do so. The Government have been clear that before confirmation, wider opening may or may not happen unless:

- The 5 key tests are met
- The rate of infection continues to be decreasing

If this criteria is fully met by June 1st and if it is feasible for schools to extend their provision (following completed risk assessments), then additional places **may** be extended to children in Y6.

- If the above tests are met and the government allows widening of places to Early Years, Y1 and Y6, then will those groups of pupils have a guaranteed, full time place in school?

No. We cannot guarantee full time places. It is possible that following the risk assessment process we may have further places available for Y6, in addition to those already offered for children of key workers and vulnerable pupils. However, safe distancing will determine the numbers. *Parents will be updated regularly on latest information as we start to be able to welcome more pupils back to school safely.*

- What safeguards will my school put in place for pupils and staff to minimise transmission of coronavirus?

The Government have published detailed guidance to support schools with their planning, ahead of the confirmation. It clearly states that:

*'The safety of children and staff is our utmost priority. Every setting should carry out a risk assessment before opening. **The assessment should directly address risks associated with coronavirus, so that sensible measures can be put in place to control those risks for children and staff. All employers have a duty to consult employees on health and safety, and they are best placed to understand the risks in individual settings.***

We are currently risk assessing and consulting all of our employees. Our risk assessment will give us the maximum numbers of pupils in each year group that we can welcome back, whilst maintaining protective social distancing measures to reduce transmission.

- When the school has completed its risk assessment and a graduated plan is in place, when will parents be told the outcome?

Parents will be updated regularly and any changes posted on the school's website via update letters such as this one and direct messaging. We will also provide links via text and the Gateway app. Please note that our plans are dependent on several factors, with the overriding one being the health and safety of pupils. Our aim is to welcome back as many children to school as we can safely accommodate. I can assure you that as soon as there is further information available, it will sent out as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation. Please continue to get in touch with us should you have any issues or queries.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P. Rust
Academy Principal