

Dear Parents/Carers,

Since Monday 23rd March we have been open to provide childcare to vulnerable children, and the children of key workers. We are pleased to have seen an increase in attendance from these groups during this period.

On Sunday 10th May the Government announced its Covid-19 recovery strategy, which includes an intention for primary schools to open to more pupils from 1st June at the earliest, and for secondary schools to offer some students face to face consultations before the summer.

As we move forward into this next phase it is important to remember that any adjustments made by Government will be based on the scientific data at the time, and that they remain conditional and reversible.

As a Trust we will also perform weekly risk assessments and make any required adjustments to our approach as required.

Since the Government announcement there has been a flurry of additional guidance. We have been in discussion with the Department for Education, Sheffield City Council, Trustees and Trade Unions, in order to confirm our response to the Government plans.

We believe that the best place for our children is to be in school and learning, however fundamental to our Trust values is that all our community remain safe. Therefore all our decisions will be made to secure the safety of both learners and staff.

What do we know?

- The Government's ambition is that schools will:
 1. Encourage all [vulnerable children](#) and [children of critical workers](#) to attend school— it is no longer necessary for you to keep children in these groups at home if you can.
 2. Open for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils from 1st June **at the earliest**.
 3. Provide face to face teacher support for Year 10 and Year 12 students, to support their online learning before the summer.

4. Open for all primary school children before the summer for a month if feasible (though this will be kept under review).
- There are no current plans to reopen secondary schools further before the summer.
 - Schools will be given **48 hours' notice**, confirming that the Government believe that it is safe to open schools to the recommended year groups for the following week.
 - Schools can prioritise depending on the availability of staff and space.
 - There are currently no plans for schools to be open over the summer period.

What don't we know?

- Attendance of students and therefore how many classes or class sizes.
- The number of staff that will be available to work in school each week, as some people will still be isolating or working from home.
- Local travel plans for journeys to and from school and around school.
- The level of discretion we have as a Trust and how much is Government direction.
- The potential spread of the disease in locality.

What is our approach?

For the rest of the academic year we will continue to:

- Open for key worker and vulnerable students
- Maintain processes for safeguarding
- Continue some remote learning for students
- Encourage staff to work from home where possible.

Phased Reopening

We believe that the best way in which to allow our children back to school, whilst maintaining a safe environment for them and our staff, is to follow a phased approach. We have therefore taken the decision to stagger the groups of learners that will be returning to school before the summer. We will also stagger attendance times and days of required attendance for students.



Every decision we make, at every stage, will be based on detailed planning, including:

- Risk assessments for the Trust and school
- Potential student numbers
- Staffing availability
- Liaison with Sheffield City Council and Learn Sheffield
- Reviews and learning from previous weeks
- Feedback from staff and unions.

Updated Safety Procedures

Across all of our settings we will be making changes in preparation for more students returning to school, including:

- Smaller group sizes with specific staff allocated to groups
- Staggered start and end times to reduce the number of people at school gates
- Signage around school on distancing and hygiene
- Increased cleaning regimes
- Arranged activities with less contact
- Plus many more actions to help keep students safe.

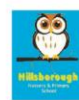
Your school will confirm the specific arrangements in place for their context.

The final decision for opening, for which year groups and which staff, will be made and shared with you on the **Thursday of each week** (for opening on the following Monday). This will be following confirmation from the Government that school opening adjustments remain safe, **and that we are satisfied that we can operate safely.**

When will groups of pupils return to school?

During May half-term we will be opening hub schools, for the children of key workers only. It is important that those staff who would normally be off work at half term and are not volunteering to work in the school hubs take time to rest and recuperate.

From 1st June, we aim to open, in whatever appropriate ways, and following safety advice and guidance, as follows:



TSAT Phased Re-opening Timeline

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| On 1st June we will open for: | Key Workers Children and Vulnerable Students | <i>And review entitlement and prepare for the launch of revised approaches to distance learning in all phases, and communicate this to learners and families.</i> | | | | |
| On 8th June we will open for: | Key Worker Children and Vulnerable Students | Nursery and Reception Learners | Secondary Year 10 and Year 12 face to face consultations | <i>And launch revised distance learning approach in all phases.</i> | | |
| On 15th June we will open for: | Key Worker Children and Vulnerable Students | Nursery and Reception Learners | Secondary Year 10 and Year 12 face to face consultations | Year 1 Learners | | |
| On 22nd June we will open for: | Key Worker Children and Vulnerable Students | Nursery and Reception Learners | Secondary Year 10 and Year 12 face to face consultations <i>Begin second wave consultations and training with disadvantaged learners for portable devices allocation.</i> | Year 1 Learners | Year 6 Learners (part of their time in secondary schools and part in primary schools within their already determined bubbles) | |
| From 29th June we will open for: | Key Worker Children and Vulnerable Students | Nursery and Reception Learners | Secondary Year 10 and Year 12 face to face consultations | Year 1 Learners | Year 6 Learners (part of their time in secondary schools and part in primary schools within their already determined bubbles) | More Primary Children (to be reviewed) |

We cannot stress enough that we will only open to these groups of students if we feel it is safe to do so.

Our rationale for the phasing of groups is:

1. 1st June directly follows a half term and we will not be in a position to have assessed capacity or need
2. The key worker list is not changing
3. We need time to settle our younger pupils back into school, and review the processes around safety
4. We can finish the primary education of our Y6 pupils and support a thorough transition to secondary education.

What should I do now?

If your child is in one of the year groups that is being allowed back to school, then your school will be contacting you to confirm all of the arrangements, including:

- Safety procedures that will be put in place
- Attendance patterns available (dates, times)
- Protocols for pick up / drop off
- If you will be sending your child to school.

If you do have any concerns then please discuss these with your Headteacher. We will be reviewing feedback on a weekly basis.

For those children who will not be returning to school before the summer, we will be reviewing our home learning content, and schools will communicate their plans with you after half term.

What next?

On Monday 1st June all schools will open to children of key workers, and vulnerable children only.

On Thursday 4th June, if your child is in nursery or reception, then your school will confirm with you if it will be open for those learners from the following Monday.

Schools will then continue to confirm, each Thursday, if they will be open for the intended groups (as per the timeline), from the following Monday.

We will shortly be sharing with you a document on 'How you can help us keep school a safe place to be.'

Thank you for your continued support during this time.

Regards,
David, Angela and Julia

