



St Ralph Sherwin

Catholic Multi Academy Trust

COVID 19 – Reopening Schools to the Wider Community:

The Trust Executive Team have been meeting regularly throughout this pandemic, and continue to do so, reviewing the Government advice and sharing and supporting our schools.

The next stage of this process is the reopening of schools and nurseries to more children, to ensure they can continue their learning, their wellbeing can be checked, and their friendships rekindled.

With effect from 1 June primary schools (at the earliest), will welcome back Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. From 15 June (at the earliest), secondary schools will welcome pupils from Years 10 and 12, providing some face-to-face contact to help prepare for public examinations next year.

Our schools have been doing great work during this pandemic, remaining open throughout to key worker and vulnerable children, which has facilitated careful planning and preparation for when those additional groups return.

The Government issued guidance recommending schools complete risk assessments for management of the risk of the virus within the school setting. All our schools have completed this, on an individual basis and with support from the Trust and Derbyshire County Council, who advise our schools on Health and Safety. This means that each school has looked at potential risks and considered the relevant control measures for their school setting, to protect all pupils, staff and visitors to the site.

The school environment will look very different for returning pupils, and the way that things are done will have changed. Some of the key changes will include:

- Social Distancing – children will be encouraged to social distance throughout the school day
- The number of children within each classroom will be reduced, with a maximum of 15 in each group
- Hygiene - children will regularly wash their hands throughout the school day

Cleaning within our schools has been increased, with frequently touched areas such as door handles being consistently cleaned throughout the school day. Additionally, a number of learning resources may have been removed from classrooms to reduce the number of items requiring regular cleaning.

Our schools will be operating a phased opening with groups of children in for part of each week, with many closing to groups other than key worker and vulnerable children, for one day each week to allow for an enhanced clean. Our plans for reopening have been shared with, the Trade Unions.

All our pupils and staff have access to the testing service should they experience any COVID-19 symptoms. We all have a part to play in minimising the risk of transmission, so please do not send your child to school if they are displaying any of the reported symptoms.

Although it will mean that things are done differently, or may seem somewhat inconvenient, please ensure you follow the advice issued by your school as these measures are to help safeguard pupils, staff and the whole school community.