



# Highfields Academy

*Together we inspire, always aiming higher*

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Wednesday 20th May 2020

Good morning everyone,

I hope you are all well. My letter is a bit later than usual today. The reason for this is that I am expecting an email from Cheshire East about their position statement. This has not been received yet so I'm sure that by tomorrow's letter I will be able to share this.

I have received an email from a parent asking what home learning will look like for pupils in reception, Year 1 and Year 6 if parents do decide that their child will not be returning to school on the 1<sup>st</sup> June. I have to stress that the government's position, and therefore the school's position is that we are strongly encouraging all eligible pupils to return to school on this date. As I have said previously, we have no way of enforcing this so at the end of the day it will be for you to decide. Once the risk assessment is published (hopefully Friday) you will be in a better position to make an informed decision.

As a school it is our duty to educate all pupils so we have to do this whether your children are in school or learning from home. What home learning will look like will very much depend on the percentages of pupils that are attending school and those who aren't. Priority will have to be those that are attending, as the government expectation is that all pupils should attend. I know that some of you have decided not to send your children in already. We will do what we can to continue supporting home learning but teachers in Year R, 1 and 6 will be working on site full time so this is not likely to be at the same level as it has been over the last couple of months. If it turns out that the large majority of pupils are not coming into school then this might be different but we will have a better idea of this by Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May, this is the date we will need some confirmation from you.

Home learning in years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will continue as it has been since 23<sup>rd</sup> May. **Please be aware though that technically next week is the half term holiday so home learning will not apply for that week.**

Next week, including the bank holiday, school will be open and will operate as we have been doing.

Since the school 'closed' we have been operating a very flexible system to support Key Worker children. We have asked that you only used the school when there are no alternatives and start/finish times have varied according to need, as have days.

This will continue to be the way we operate for Key Worker children in preschool and in years 2, 3, 4 and 5. However, for pupils in reception, year 1 and year 6 the approach will be different. If your child is returning to school (which we strongly encourage) then it will be business as usual, ie: your child will be expected to be in every day unless they are ill and they will be expected to be in for the school day. It will not be a case of choosing which days and times your children will attend. (This may vary for preschool children).

I have copied and pasted the section from the latest government guidance to schools about their expectations on school attendance for you. Take care everyone, hopefully see you all soon.

Simon Dyson



## Guidance

# Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak

Updated 18 May 2020

## 2.1 Which pupils can attend school?

From the week commencing 1 June at the earliest, we will be asking primary schools to welcome back children in nursery, Reception, year 1 and year 6, alongside priority groups. We will ask secondary schools, sixth form and further education colleges to offer some face-to-face support for year 10 and year 12 students (and equivalents) who are due to take key exams next year, alongside the full time provision they are offering to priority groups.

Alternative provision settings should mirror the approach being taken for mainstream schools and also offer some face-to-face support for years 10 and 11 students (as they have no year 12). Special schools, special post-16 institutions and hospital schools will work towards a phased return of more children and young people without a focus on specific year groups.

The following principles will apply to this phase of wider opening by schools:

- children and young people in eligible year groups are strongly encouraged to attend (where there are no shielding concerns for the child or their household), so that they can gain the educational and wellbeing benefits of attending
- vulnerable children of all year groups continue to be expected to attend educational provision where it is appropriate for them to do so (for children with education health and care (EHC) plans this will be informed by a risk assessment approach)
- children, young people and staff who have been classed as [clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions](#) have been advised to shield. We do not expect people in this category to be attending school or college, and they should continue to be supported to learn or work at home as much as possible. Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. Few if any children will fall into this category, but parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category. Staff in this category should work from home where possible, and refer to the detail in our protective measures guidance
- a child/young person or a member of staff who lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, can attend their education or childcare setting
- if a child/young person or staff member lives in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable, as set out in the [guidance on shielding](#), it is advised they only attend an education or childcare setting if stringent social

distancing can be adhered to and, in the case of children, if they are able to understand and follow those instructions. This may not be possible for very young children and older children without the capacity to adhere to the instructions on social distancing. If stringent social distancing cannot be adhered to, we do not expect those individuals to attend. They should be supported to learn or work at home

- staff and children or young people should not attend if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household
- protective measures will be put in place for staff and pupils, as far as is possible, to ensure that the risk of transmission is reduced.