

24th June 2020

To: All Parents/Carers of pupils in Reach South Academy Trust schools

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you know, the Government allowed us to open our academies more widely for certain primary year groups from 1 June and secondary year groups from 15 June. The Government placed conditions on us being able to do this, in particular that we had put in place the necessary hygiene and infection control measures to reduce the risk of infection coming into the schools.

Although we have never closed our schools since the lockdown on 20 March (in fact they have been open through the school holidays and even bank holidays for children of key workers and some other children) we were delighted to open more widely from 3 June for primary pupils and 15 June for secondary pupils.

The Government made clear which year groups of children schools were to bring back into school first. We have not been permitted to bring back children beyond these priority groups.

For primary schools, the priority groups are: children of key workers; vulnerable children; nursery, reception and year-1 children; and finally, year-6 children.

For secondary schools, the priority groups are: children of key workers; vulnerable children; year-10 and year-12 students.

I must emphasise that the prioritisation of these groups was set by the Government, not the Trust nor the academy.

Each academy has been certified for the maximum number of pupils that it can currently admit so that we can observe the 2m social distancing rule in our class-bubbles and other areas of each academy.

In order to observe the current social distancing guidance, most of our academies can only admit around 30% of our normal pupil intake. That has meant that some of our academies have now allocated all of the available places to children in the priority groups. Some academies are now having to operate a waiting list even for children in those priority groups.

Recently, the Government has relaxed the rule on which children can attend, and now allow us to take children from other year groups if we have spaces left after admitting children from the priority groups. Academies within the Trust are able to take children from other year groups providing that they have spaces and they do not exceed the certified maximum number of pupils to preserve social distancing.



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Finally, we are now planning for September and remain hopeful that we will be able to admit all children back to school in the Autumn term if the conditions allow.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. G. E.", is positioned above the typed name of the Chief Executive Officer.

Chief Executive Officer

Reach South Academy Trust