

## 1. SMBC Proposed Position Statement on Schools Opening to More Pupils

- 1.1 It has been agreed with schools and trade unions that although there is an expectation that schools will increase their pupil numbers from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June at the earliest, this will depend on:
- the latest scientific advice and guidance from government
  - how prepared schools are, with the emphasis being on safety and readiness.
- 1.2 The minimum expectation will be that from the 1<sup>st</sup> June there will be more vulnerable pupils attending. However, realistically it is more likely to be the 8<sup>th</sup> June where pupils from those specific year groups identified by government will begin to be welcomed back to school.
- 1.3 There is no expectation from the council that schools should accommodate 15 pupils in every classroom (as indicated in the Government guidance). Individual [school risk assessment](#) will determine how many pupils they are able to accommodate safely, and that will vary considerably from setting to setting.
- 1.4 The council will continue to monitor the national position, including developments in the national negotiations with unions and will update schools accordingly. The following information has been/will be provided to schools:
- A set of underlying principles which will govern the next phase in the reopening of schools
  - A Solihull whole [school risk assessment template](#)
  - Updated HR guidance specifically around vulnerable staff and expectations on returning to work
  - A curriculum document setting out the local authority's expectations about the education schools might provide
  - Updated PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) guidance, including what schools can expect in terms of supplies
  - Social distancing guidance developed jointly with Public Health and the Health and Safety team
  - Transition guidance between different phases of education (e.g. pupils transferring from primary to secondary school)
  - A letter for all parents of children in Solihull schools informing them of what the re-opening arrangements will be; what the expectations are and where they can find more information.
  - Guidance around school transport
  - A new website which will be updated in real time as the situation changes given its fluidity

## 2. Solihull Overarching principles: re-set and recovery

- **The highest priority and consideration is the safety and wellbeing of Solihull children, young people, staff and other key stakeholders;**
- This is a **collaborative approach** across Solihull schools, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and in consultation with Trade Unions;
- The approach recognises different **layers of accountability and responsibility** including government direction, Solihull wide and individual schools.
- **Learning** from education settings globally, (e.g. Denmark and other countries that have started on the reset journey) national and locally.
- There will be **phases to the approach** –some of these may be known, others will emerge (for example when schools will get to a new normal) and that there will be different drivers and motivators for movement across the phases.

## 3. Solihull Specific Principles – opening from 1st June

- **The safety of everyone in school is paramount**
- **Consistent and co-ordinated approach across the Solihull school system**
- An absolute focus on encouraging all of our eligible vulnerable children to return to school.
- The number of pupils per classroom must be according to each school's risk assessment and social distancing guidance.
- Implement protective measures across the school as set out in the Government guidance.
- The consideration of the practical transition of year 6 pupils.
- Year 10 and year 12 to continue to begin to be considered from the 1<sup>st</sup> June along with nursery reception and year 1 and 6.
- Maximise the number of consistent pupils that staff members have contact with wherever possible.
- Take a phased approach for pupils to return gradually, and build up confidence across schools.
- The most appropriate curriculum to be planned by the school, with an initial emphasis on emotional well-being of pupils and staff and no requirement to cover the whole national curriculum in the first phase of opening.