



Further Information Regarding the Wider Opening of our Academies in Oldham

5th June 2020

Dear Parents,

I am writing to update you with important information regarding our plan for the wider opening of our Oldham academies.

Information has been released late this afternoon which has affected the decisions made by our board of trustees yesterday which was to open to some Year 6 pupils from Monday 8th June.

You may be aware that the government has announced today that the R value for the North West region could have risen to above 1. Being below an R value of 1 is one of the Government's tests for easing lockdown measures, including the wider opening of schools.

Oldham Council has issued a position statement this evening. This was to continue with its reopening of maintained schools and that the position remains unchanged. This is based on Public Health Information which shows continuing declines in the rate of infection and death from Coronavirus in Oldham. Some local authorities including Tameside Council have taken the decision to postpone the wider opening of their schools.

Following this new information, **the decision has been made to postpone the wider opening of our academies in Oldham for one week**, this is fully supported by our board of trustees and academy leadership teams. We will use this time to seek further advice and consider the available evidence and government guidance.

Our staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that risk controls are in place and throughout have considered the safety of our staff, our children and their families. **We will continue to provide places for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers during this time.**

We will be in contact again once the next phase of our re-opening has been agreed, or before if there is further significant information. We thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Antony Hughes
CEO The Harmony Trust