



Harmony Trust Further Update Regarding Wider Opening of Academies

Thursday 18th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wanted to provide you with a further update following a meeting with our Board of Trustees yesterday.

Following a full discussion of the current situation **it has been agreed that we embark on wider reopening of our academies where there is capacity and parental demand within our existing safety controls. This is assuming that infection and death rates, both regionally and nationally, continue to decrease.**

Trustees were particularly concerned to try to support working families facing such significant uncertainty and anxiety at this current time. We are committed to try to support as best we can under the significant restrictions on our capacity, which is roughly a third of what it would be normally because of the safety guidelines and our risk controls. These are being kept under constant review.

We are continuing to work within strict controls to keep everyone as safe as possible. Our capacity in each school is limited and although each academy varies in terms of the capacity they have, in all academies it is dependent on:

- Space available in school to facilitate smaller groups of children (bubbles)
- Staffing available, taking into account our duty to protect our medically vulnerable staff

Whereas in usual circumstances we would generally have one member of staff with thirty children, the same thirty children would now be split across three rooms with approximately six members of staff.

As much as we would love to welcome all pupils back, this will not be possible until safety measures can be relaxed.

In order to ensure fairness, the following will be applied in all our academies:

1. Vulnerable children and key workers remain the priority for provision
2. Year 6 pupils will be prioritised (Year 1 for those academies which do not have any Year 6 pupils)
3. If capacity allows, children in Year 1, Reception and Nursery will be offered a place in that order (the Government has prioritised these year groups).

It is unlikely that spaces for other year groups will be available and home learning will be in place for those children who remain at home.

Chief Executive: Mr Antony Hughes

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THE HARMONY TRUST

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All decisions to increase the number of pupils will be made in line with our safety measures.

Next steps

Your Principal will be sending out a letter in the next few days with details of the capacity available in your academy. They will also be in contact with you if your child is eligible for a place in the next phase of reopening. We will be looking at the level of demand for places in the priority year groups and will offer a place to as many children as we safely can.

Please note that we will not be able to add to existing year groups at a later date so please let your child's school know if you would like your child to be considered for a place (if you have not already done so through the parent survey). We may not be able to offer a place at this time or we may be able to offer a part-time place. We will clarify the offer for your child as soon as we can.

Your child's academy Principal will be in contact again soon. We thank you for your continued co-operation.

Yours sincerely

Antony Hughes
CEO The Harmony Trust