

**People Directorate**

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Friday 3rd July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer/Guardian

Following the publication of government guidance on Thursday 2nd July 2020 via the Department for Education, schools in Salford are now making plans to safely open for all pupils in September.

The vast majority of schools have already been open for vulnerable groups of children and children of key workers since the lockdown began and in addition schools have been open to certain year groups for a number of weeks. As you appreciate, there is a lot of detailed preparation needed in order to put these new arrangements in place. This will involve school staff completing revised risk assessment documents, planning for the safe use of the school site and devising new plans for teaching and learning. In order to do this, the Local Authority is authorising all of its maintained schools to have up to 3 additional in-service days (training days) at the start of the school year. This will be at the discretion of each school depending on the context of the school and what is required to open fully. The Headteacher of each school will communicate the arrangements for re-opening your child's schools to you directly.

There are many specific considerations unique to individual schools, settings and colleges which they are best placed to understand and plan for. This includes the different needs of their cohorts of children or young people and local communities, the size and shape of buildings and the numbers of staff that are available to work. This means that there cannot be a uniform approach across the City in response to this announcement and settings, schools and colleges will have to develop their own flexible plans in order to begin to safely increase the number of children attending at any one time. For example, it may be that some schools decide to phase their return more gradually one year group at a time for example. Some high schools might decide to have a day or two with just the new Year 7 pupils to help them to settle into their new schools.

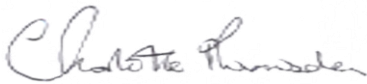
Your school will, of course, be in touch with you to provide more information about their plans for a phased return of all children in due course. Just as you did so well before, we would ask you to support your school leaders at this time and be patient, they are working as quickly as they can to put plans in place during this difficult time.

In September, school leaders will be continuing to ensure that the health and well-being of all their pupils is at the heart of everything that they do. They will continue to put in place a programme to support the mental health and emotional wellbeing as well as focusing their learning and catching up on any work they have missed during the lockdown.

All members of the education community are working as hard as they can together to get our children and young people back to school and I thank you for your continued support in helping us to do this.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely



Charlotte Ramsden – Strategic Director



Cathy Starbuck - Assistant Director, Education, Work and Skills



Councillor John Merry

Deputy City Mayor and Lead Member for Children's and Young People's Services



Councillor John Walsh

Executive Support Member for Education and Learning