



To
Parent / Carer

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SKILLS

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Your Ref.
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Please ask for: Louise Rees
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Dear Parent / Carer

We wanted to update you about the next phase of re-opening schools in Solihull for more pupils.

As you will be aware, almost every school in Solihull has remained open during this lockdown period for qualifying pupils. Our primary schools have begun welcoming back more children and have told us that this has been an overwhelmingly positive experience. The government has now issued further guidance for secondary schools allowing more pupils to safely return to school. Many of you will have questions about what this means for your child.

Firstly, we wanted to reassure you that the key priority for the council and schools is to ensure the safety of your child. Your school leadership team is currently undertaking a detailed risk assessment and putting in place a range of protective measures before they will open their doors to more pupils. They are planning for changes that are as supportive as possible for children and families, whilst being manageable for the school.

From the 15th June, the government are asking:

- secondary schools, sixth form, and further education colleges to begin offering some face-to-face support to year 10 and 12 pupils to supplement their remote education, which should remain their predominant mode of education during this term
- alternative provision to begin some face-to-face support with year 10 and 11 pupils (as they have no year 12)

This is in addition to the children of key workers and other pupils who already qualify for a place under current government guidance. Unfortunately, pupils who fall outside of these groups will not be invited back to school at this time.

The government has been clear that pupils who are shielded due to their medical vulnerability, who are at particular clinical risk, or who live in a household with someone who is shielded or otherwise clinically at risk should remain at home.

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You may notice that the offer secondary schools make to their pupils is different to primary schools. Even for years 10 and 12, schools are expected to provide remote or online learning as the main provision as they have been doing for all year groups. The amount of contact time your child has with school will vary across the borough depending upon the arrangements school puts in place in response to the risk assessment that it has undertaken. Schools will only invite pupils back once the protective measures outlined by the government have been put in place, which includes having a maximum 25% of the year 10 and year 12 cohort at any one time.

Your child's school will be contacting you if they are in one of the priority groups outlined above in order to invite them to return once they are ready to receive additional pupils. Clearly we all share the view that it will be positive for children to be back in school, but this has to be when schools and you as parents are reassured that this will be safe. This is why the government is encouraging parents to support the phased return to school, but they have confirmed that attendance is not compulsory at this time.

The council continues to work closely with your headteacher, who I am sure you will agree is doing an amazing job in these unprecedented times. We are all responding to new guidance as it emerges and therefore the situation remains changeable. You can find further details and information about the support available for families [here](#).

If you have questions or concerns then please contact your child's school in the first instance through the usual channels.

Yours sincerely



Louise Rees
Director of Children's Services & Skills