

Archdiocese of Birmingham  
St Edmund Campion Catholic School  
and Sixth Form

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Headteacher:  
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Dear Parents/Carers

### Planning for a phased return to school

Further to Mr Farrell's letter and subsequent QnA document sent to all parents earlier this week of which I have attached an updated version, I am writing to provide further information about how the academy's agreed approach for a phased return will work at St Edmund Campion Catholic School.

### Our key priorities are:

1. The safety of pupils and staff
2. The availability of staff and capacity of school sites.
3. Provision – our approach to the curriculum.

### Start date

As stated in Mr Farrell's letter, the start date for us accepting more children in to school is provisionally Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June at the earliest. This will depend not only on the government giving us clear confirmation that schools are safe to open but also on us having all of the protective measures needed are in place.

### Key protective measures

It is important to stress that during this period of phased return, the school day will look very different. Following the DfE guidelines and our own local risk assessments, we are adopting the following protective measures in all schools:

- Staggered start and end times for any specified year group attending and systems to maintain social distancing for children and parents.
- Allocated spaces for children in classes and seating plans
- Children will initially be taught in a groups of no more than 15 pupils per area/room to ensure that we keeping social distancing as far as practically possible.
- Each area/room will have certain students who work only within that group. Staff and children from different groups will be at a minimum.
- Pupils in any given group may well not be with their usual teacher.
- Teachers will give careful consideration to the groupings for each group taking a range of factors in to account but decisions on this will be made in best interests of children. Once set, we will not be able to change the groupings.
- Staff may need to wear PPE depending on their own health and vulnerability and always when administering first aid.
- Extra cleaning will take place during the school day
- Many of our resources and equipment that cannot be easily cleaned will be removed from the classrooms.

*'Achieving Together through Christ'*

- In order to ensure the school is properly cleaned and to allow staff time to balance their responsibilities for home learning, the school day will not involve lunchtimes; timetables will be allocated in morning and afternoon sessions.
- Communication with staff will be via telephone or email and parents will not be authorised onto the school site.

We would like to remind all parents that, as a result of any issues with maintaining adequate protective measures, if we have staff or children with Covid-19 symptoms or if the government guidance changes, the school may need to close for some or all children at short notice.

### **Prioritising children and year groups**

Thank you to all parents who have responded to our recent survey asking if you require a place as this will be helpful in enabling us to determine allocation. We will be using the following order of priority when allocating places, in line with the DfE guidance:

1. Children of key workers and vulnerable children
2. Yrs 10 and 12

Following an assessment of available staff at St Edmund Campion School we anticipate that we will be able to accommodate all pupils who indicated that they would like to take up a place. This will be done on a rota system to keep the numbers of pupils onsite at any given time to a minimum.

### **Allocating places**

As soon as we have confirmation that we can safely open to more pupils, we will be in contact with parents to confirm who has been allocated a place and will provide further details about timetabling and school procedures. We would also ask that if your child or any members of your household display any suspected Covid19 symptoms (i.e. cough, high temperature, loss of taste or smell) that you keep to the self-isolation procedure and do not send your child to school.

When/ if we do return, we respectfully ask that if your family have not kept to the current government guidance on social distancing and contact with others that you do not send your child to school as this will ultimately jeopardise the safety of the children and staff.

Please note that the current provision for vulnerable children and children of key workers (where no other arrangements can be made for child care) will not be affected and will continue. This group will also remain the priority once we are ready to begin to open to more children.

We understand that this prolonged absence from school has been a challenging time for parents, children and staff and we all look forward to the day when we can safely be back together.

In the meantime, we would like to thank you for your continued messages of support and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Yours sincerely



Mr A. Grant (Headteacher, St Edmund Campion School)