



To: All Headteachers

**Children, Young People and  
Education Directorate**

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Date: 18 May 2020

Dear Colleague

### **Guidance to Schools on Readmitting Further Children**

I am pleased to attach a link through to Kent's guidance for schools on the readmission of further pupils. There is already much guidance in existence nationally, taking multiple formats. Our approach has been to produce a compendium; we have sought to put all the information in one place for you. It is not intended to be a cover to cover read, rather a clearly structured document with different sections so that you can access what you need, when you need to. It is important the guidance answers the questions school leaders have, and quickly. Each section contains key messages and advice, with further reference information linked to these. Sections can be shared with relevant members of your staff, to support them in their planning also.

[https://www.kelsi.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/108969/Return-to-School-Guidance.pdf](https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/108969/Return-to-School-Guidance.pdf)

I hope you find the approach we have taken helpful. I would like to thank the significant number of headteacher colleagues who have helped in its production, by sharing ideas, questions, and providing formal and informal feedback.

Since the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, school leaders and staff have risen to the challenges created by the COVID 19 crisis and have dealt with extraordinary circumstances with professionalism and resilience. Thank you all for that. We recognise this has been a stressful and anxious time and that these challenges are going to continue for some time.

You have managed, in these unprecedented times, to continue to provide places for your vulnerable and key worker children while providing remote education for other students. In doing this you have already put in place a lot of the measures that will help us to enable a greater number of children to attend in the future. Indeed, the numbers of children attending schools in Kent has doubled between the pre and post Easter periods.

Quite naturally, there are concerns being voiced nationally and locally here in Kent about whether it is safe, or operationally feasible, for schools to begin admitting more pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> June as the Government has requested. I would stress that the Government has stated that the date to plan for readmitting additional pupils is 1<sup>st</sup> June, at the earliest. This caveat indicates that the Government will assess nearer this date if it believes the conditions are right to proceed from then, and we do not expect this final confirmation until 28<sup>th</sup> May, in all probability.

In the meantime, the LA's function is to help you prepare and plan for additional pupils to be in school from whatever date is finally confirmed nationally. Currently 1<sup>st</sup> June at the earliest is what we are all being asked to plan for. Our aim is to help create the conditions and provide any support we can that will enable you to meet the Government's objectives as fully as possible. It is welcome that the Government's guidance says there is some flexibility in how this is achieved, including prioritising year groups should this be necessary. Planning for these first steps in the recovery phase from COVID 19 will no doubt pose further unexpected challenges and difficult decisions for us all as we move through it.

I recognise that the situation will continue to be subject to change, probably very quickly, which will make planning and leading difficult. The "ask" of leadership in these circumstances is undoubtedly a big one. During this time, we want to work with you and support you to tackle the challenges that you, your staff and your communities are facing.

I hope you find this guidance useful and wish you well as you and your school community move into this next phase.

Yours sincerely



Matt Dunkley CBE  
Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education