



**Children, Young People and
Education**

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Date: 26 May 2020

Dear Headteacher

I hope you have had a restful bank holiday, enjoying the glorious weather. I am sure you will not have failed to notice the changes to the guidance for schools that has been shared over the weekend. The guidance has provided further clarity on the expectations on secondary schools and special schools with secondary age pupils.

Secondary school colleagues are now being asked to plan on the basis that from the week commencing 15th June, they can welcome year 10 and 12 pupils back for some face-to-face support with their teachers, subject to the government's 5 tests being met. It is the expectation that high-quality remote education will continue to be the predominant form of education delivery for these year groups and all other secondary age pupils. Any plans that secondary schools have made for pupils to return earlier in June should be deferred to commence from this date.

Secondary colleagues are referred to the already published 'Implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings' guidance to support their planning with this:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

The guidance asks for secondary schools to ensure that only a quarter of children are ever in the school on any one day. We have taken this to mean a quarter of the year 10 and a quarter of the year 12 cohort, although your own risk assessments are paramount to your decision making on this.

In discussions today with teaching unions, concerns were raised that schools were not sharing their risk assessments with staff and school-based union representatives. Our advice remains that risk assessments inform your planning, and these should be shared with staff. It is important that there is open dialogue between school leaders and staff at this time.

Vulnerable children and those of critical workers remain the priority. Schools have the flexibility to determine how best to provide full-time provision for these children in year 10 and year 12, alongside the support for others in those year groups. Vulnerable children and children of critical workers in other year groups should be accommodated as currently or if currently in a hub then schools should explore how to bring them back to their named school, subject to risk assessments.

The full guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-secondary-schools>

Guidance for FE/ sixth form colleges, skills and training providers remains the same as published on the 14th May. These providers are being asked to offer some face to face contact for 16 to 19 year old learners on the first year of two-year programmes (e.g. a two-year vocational course, equivalent to year 12 in schools) from the 1st June. More detailed guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-further-education-provision/maintaining-education-and-skills-training-provision-further-education-providers>

We are in the process of updating our own guidance to include these changes, this can be found at:

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/news-and-events/news/primary/coronavirus>

Starting from next week, KCC Education staff, AEOs and SIAs are meeting weekly with KAH representatives in Area Task Groups, working together to navigate through the current challenges. Developing strategies and gathering information about the models and approaches being taken by schools so that good practice can be shared.

Your AEO's and SIA's are also available to support schools with individual concerns and questions.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for everything you do for our county's children and young people.

Yours sincerely



David Adams
Interim Director of Education