



THE HARMONY TRUST

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Harmony Trust Further Update Regarding Wider Opening of Academies

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wanted to provide you with a further update following the Prime Minister confirmation yesterday that Government believes it has met the 5 tests to allow further easing of lockdown measures in England. This included restating the Government's intention to begin to open primary schools because it believes it safe to do so in a phased way.

This means that we are continuing to prepare for a careful phased reopening of our academies. Our overall priority is to ensure that there are rigorous measures in place to manage the risks of infection to pupils and staff. **Next week we will be consulting further with our Trustees, Trade Unions and staff about the risk assessments we have carried out for all academies.**

Since schools were asked to begin their preparations to achieve our pupils' safe return, Trust leadership teams have been extremely busy. This work has focused on implementing the guidelines from Government in a way that works for our communities and their concerns about sending children back to school. The preparations have been extensive, including:

- Classrooms being made as safe as possible by removing furniture, soft furnishings and any resources which will not be used to ensure as much space as possible is available for social distancing.
- Hygiene stations being set up near entrances and in all classrooms.
- Putting in place systems to make sure children and adults know how to travel around school safely. This includes markers for lining up and one way systems put in place to remove any potential congestion points.
- School leaders preparing for all pupils who are being invited to return into much smaller groups now referred to as 'bubbles' (on average, groups of ten) with a very restricted number of adults entering each bubble (two or three depending on the needs of the group). The intention is that the bubbles do not mix.
- Preparing a curriculum designed to help children reintegrate into school life and understand our new ways of working and living – including spending a significant amount of time on well-being and taking the children outside whenever space and the weather allows.
- a number of health and safety checks have been carried out such as alarm and water testing and buildings have received a deep clean.
- allocating clear drop off and pick-up areas and times to keep you all safe and ask that you remain 2 metres apart from others at these times. That may take a little longer but our priority is everyone's safety.

To ensure all our staff are aware of these key changes to school life and in order to keep everyone as safe as possible, **all our academies are closed to all children for the start of next week (Monday 1 June and Tuesday 2 June) to provide staff induction.** We also want to get the views, thoughts and ideas of our staff to add these to our safety measures.

The second part of next week (Wednesday 3- Friday 5 June) we will see our key worker and vulnerable children return to their usual school as some of these have been attending other schools in our Trust. At Hackwood Primary Academy, Year 1 children will also start back at school.

Following that – **and subject to consultation on the risk assessments for each academy**– we plan to start phasing in children for other year groups. Principals will be in touch next week to confirm that this remains the case following the consultation on our risk assessments with staff, Trade Unions, and Trustees.

Yours sincerely



Antony Hughes
CEO The Harmony Trust

Chief Executive: Mr Antony Hughes
The Harmony Trust, Northmoor Academy, Alderson St, Oldham, OL9 6AQ
0161 260 0482 | info@theharmonytrust.org | www.theharmonytrust.org

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