



10 July 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

We hope that you continue to remain safe and well during these uncertain times and it is hard to believe that we are now approaching the end of the academic year.

We have reviewed the Department for Education's guidance published on Thursday 2nd July which clarifies their expectation for schools to reopen fully to all pupils in the Autumn Term. The guidance highlights some key measures that must be implemented by schools to ensure the safety of all.

We appreciate that many of you will have questions about how this can be safely managed, and I want to reassure you that we are taking this responsibility very seriously. We will need to balance our aim of providing our children with a high quality, full curriculum entitlement with the need to maintain stringent controls in order to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 within our school community.

There are a lot of logistical challenges involved and senior leaders are working hard on our initial planning. We know that you will understand that we won't be able to provide you with the final details at this stage as we will need to undertake further detailed planning to ensure that we develop the safest plans for our children/students and staff.

However, we wanted to keep you informed and we hope that outlining our thinking will give you some reassurance about what September will look like. We are highly ambitious for all students and our objective is to keep them safe while enabling access to the full curriculum within a carefully managed environment.

In this letter we are sharing our initial planning and a timeline to ensure you are aware of our next steps.

By the end of term we will:

- Review and update our school reopening Risk Assessments to reflect changes in Government and Public Health England guidance and the need to open fully for pupils and staff
- Consult with staff and Trades Unions on the Risk Assessments and invite their feedback
- Respond to any questions raised by staff and their representative
- Ensure that Directors are confident that a robust process has underpinned the development of the Risk Assessments and appropriate measures have been put in place to minimise the transmission of COVID-19 and protect pupils and staff.

Week commencing the 17 August:

- Review the additional Government Guidance on September School opening that is due to be released on 11th August





- Amend Risk Assessments in line with the further guidance
- Complete the final plan for September re-opening and establish contingency plans to prepare us for a variety of different scenarios, including the need to deliver the curriculum remotely in the event of further local or national COVID-19 lockdowns

Week commencing 24th August:

- Write to parents to advise them of the arrangements that we will be putting in place at each of our schools to enable the safe return of pupils and staff

Week commencing 31st August

- We will use our planned INSET days on Tuesday 1st September and Wednesday 2nd September for staff training.
- We will be welcoming our pupils back into school on a phased basis with pupils from Year 1 – Year 6 returning on **Thursday 3rd September**.

All Holy Cross Catholic Schools have remained open during the COVID-19 lockdown for vulnerable and Key Worker children and more recently have opened to some additional year groups. During this period, we have learnt a lot about how to manage the important controls which have been required by the Government and Public Health England to minimise infection transmission:

1. Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
2. Cleaning hands thoroughly more often than usual.
3. Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
4. Introducing enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.

Our schools have shown that they have the capacity to operate within a controlled environment for a limited number of pupils and staff and the challenge now will be to ensure that we can continue to operate safely as we open fully to all pupils and staff.

Rigorous Risk Assessments underpin the detailed planning that is taking place now and will continue through the summer holiday period.

Thank you for your continuing support and encouragement, this has been so important to us all and has helped to sustain us throughout this term. We are delighted to be planning for a full return in September and I look forward to the Autumn Term with positivity about the academic year ahead.

Yours sincerely

Helen Forrest

Marina Kelly

Headteacher

CSEL, Holy Cross Catholic MAC





