



Wider Potential Opening of Harmony Academies

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, the Prime Minister has asked all schools to begin to consider how they could safely achieve wider opening of schools from 1st of June 2020, if at that time the government feel it is safe to do so. The Government will not take a final decision on this until 28 May, but we must try to plan for that possibility despite this uncertainty.

Currently, all school leaders are working closely with the health and safety team within the Trust. They are considering carefully the guidance given by the Department for Education. We are also liaising with our trade union partners to identify what steps we need to take to minimise the risk of infection to pupils, parents and staff.

Key Update

In order to prioritise the health and safety of our children, families and staff, and to prepare all our academies for re-opening and wider opening, we have made the decision that most **academies will not be open to any pupils on Monday 1st June and Tuesday 2nd June.** This would enable us to ensure that all staff have had extensive induction into the new ways of working needed to ensure all academies are well-prepared for wider opening when the Department of Education tells us it is safe to do so. From Wednesday 3rd June onwards all academies would then be open for the children of key workers and those children that have been identified as potentially vulnerable.

From Monday 8th June our academies would then begin wider opening of provision for other year groups. Each principal will be in contact with you shortly to share further details of their individual plans with you, once leadership teams have collated information about how many parents wish to send their children to school and numbers of staff safe to attend academy sites. We must advise that the new guidelines means that more staff are needed for fewer children than normal times, and this could naturally limit any further reopening. So we will have to keep everything under review day by day. **We have taken the decision to place a particularly priority on children who are Y6 because they will need support to prepare for secondary school.** But we also intend to work towards the Government expectation on opening nursery, reception and Y1 providing we have the staffing.

Thank you to those of you who have completed our questionnaire or taken part in phone conversations with school leaders. Please can any Derby parents who have not already done so, complete the online questionnaire on our websites. Leadership teams are working to implement a gradual and phased approach to take account of all health and safety measures required. We will also be working with the teaching staff to consider the needs of children who are remaining at home. We want to ensure that all children receive sufficient support and guidance in the coming weeks wherever they are learning.

The document at the annex outlines the actions that all our academies will be taking to minimize the risk of infection and spread of the virus when academies re open. We will be continuing to follow the guidance outlined by the government (see the link below) should any child or adult in the 'bubble groups' show signs of any symptoms. The Harmony Trust infrastructure team are working closely with each academy to

Chief Executive: Mr Antony Hughes

The Harmony Trust, Northmoor Academy, Alderson St, Oldham, OL9 6AQ
0161 260 0482 | info@theharmonytrust.org | www.theharmonytrust.org



THE HARMONY TRUST

BELIEVE • ACHIEVE • SUCCEED

ensure that the school has all necessary safety measures in place to protect pupils and staff, before trustees agree to wider opening plans.

<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>












Thank you for your patience and support in these difficult times. Please be reassured that each academy will be in touch shortly with their more detailed plans once they have completed and received approval of their risk assessments from our health and safety team.

Until then, please have a look at the information below, which seeks to answer some of the questions raised on the questionnaire responses. I hope that you and your families are safe and well.

Antony Hughes
CEO The Harmony Trust






Actions we are taking to minimise the risk of the virus spreading:

	We have taken a 'bubble approach' to the way that we group the children in school – not quite 'zorbing, but the idea of the group being in one bubble'. We will be grouping the children into groups of no more than 10. They will remain in the 'bubble group' for the foreseeable future and will spend the entirety of the school day with that group. The group will eat together and have social time together and we will have 2 members of staff allocated to each 'bubble group' Staff will not mix with any other groupings.
	Markers will be placed on the playground 2m apart to line up for school entry and the corridor will be signposted with direction of travel information.
	Staggered entry and exit to the school premises. Groups of pupils will be given specific times to come to school and be collected from school. Only 1 parent must accompany or collect their child. If pupils usually walk home alone, they may leave at the designated time of their group.
	Communication with members of staff must be booked in via class dojo or telephone call to arrange a suitable time to meet at a 2m distance. Parents will not be able to congregate at the end of the day or to speak to the class teacher on collection.
	Cleaning in the classrooms throughout the day, as well as toilets and resources. Each classroom will have cleaning materials to use and classrooms will be cleaned at the end of the day. A deep clean has taken place this week as part of preparation for school re opening.
	First aid stations will be set up in each classroom and first aid will be administered in the 'bubble groups' classroom by the key staff.
	Break and lunchtimes will be staggered. Each 'bubble group' will have break and lunch times. They will not have the opportunity to communicate and socialise with other bubble groups. The group will eat lunch in the classrooms and will have fresh air together.
	Children will be asked to wash hands before leaving home, when arriving in school, before eating, after eating, before exercise and after exercise. Hand sanitiser is accessible in every classroom. Sinks and soap are accessible in most classrooms or in toilets close by.
	Reading books and book bags will not be sent home or permitted to be brought into school.
	Group assemblies will take place in the classroom- there will be no communal events in the school halls.
	Windows will be open in every classroom to aid ventilation throughout the day.



THE HARMONY TRUST

BELIEVE • ACHIEVE • SUCCEED

	Soft furnishings will be removed from the classrooms and each child will have their own work station with their own resources to use throughout the day.
	The school office will not be open for parents.
	Home school activities will continue to be set with work set for pupils not yet able to return to school.

