

Mr. W. P. Carratt
Chief Executive Officer
Nexus Multi Academy Trust
Email: CEO@NexusMAT.org

Tuesday, 14 July 2020

Dear families,

Arrangements for September 2020

As many of you will already know, the Government has announced that statutory attendance requirements will be reintroduced for all children from 1 September 2020 and therefore all pupils will be expected to return to school. As state schools, we are obliged to follow the direction of Government. This is not optional.

Since March 2020, pupil attendance at school has been optional for parents.

From 1 June, schools throughout England opened to more pupils. Mainstream primary schools were advised to keep classes at no more than 50% capacity, with the school offer tailored around meeting the needs of as many pupils as possible. We adopted this approach in the majority of our academies and reduced provision has been one way in which our schools have accommodated more places, in line with the advice to keep numbers low.

With all children returning from 1 September, Headteachers are updating their school risk assessments and planning for the safest environment possible. The Government view is that schools remain a safe place for children and staff, though we have been asked to continue to minimise risks by grouping children together in "bubbles". These can be class groups, year groups or whole key stages, depending on what is most compatible with the needs of an individual school.

The increased availability of Coronavirus testing for pupils and staff – in conjunction with a higher volume of individuals in a school setting – will likely mean all schools have to respond to more confirmed cases of Coronavirus than we've had previously. This is natural and to be expected.

There is clear Government guidance for how schools should respond to any suspected and/or confirmed Coronavirus cases, which all academies across Nexus MAT will be following. We have today published our updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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which our academies have made available on their websites, should you want to know more details about how we intend to operate.

We understand this change will mean many of you feel anxious about your child's wellbeing. Please be assured that we will do all we can to meet the needs of all pupils whilst keeping them as safe as possible.

I would strongly encourage families to contact school directly if you are worried about September. I appreciate that this pandemic has directly impacted many families and some have taken life altering decisions as a consequence.

However, I also know that all of our academies have maintained an offer of provision throughout the lockdown period and since 1 June we have seen a managed increase in the number of pupils accessing school, which we have continued to manage safely. Headteachers continue to work incredibly hard to ensure we have the safest possible environment for children and staff, though we know we have to manage the risk of Coronavirus as we can't avoid it entirely.

Each academy will be issuing further information on their approach for September, before the end of term, if this hasn't been shared already.

Thank you all for your continued support and trust in our amazing school teams. We look forward to welcoming all our pupils back from 1 September.

Yours faithfully,



Warren Carratt
Chief Executive Officer
Nexus MAT