

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of what has to be the most unprecedented academic year in living memory, I wanted to write you all to thank you for your support through these difficult times and to let you know our plans for September.

We have been in constant discussions as a trust with our schools about the safest way to bring children back to schools and offer them as much of the curriculum as we are able under new restrictions. In line with the Department for Education's instruction, it is our plan that **all pupils, in all year groups, will return to school full-time** from the beginning of the autumn term in September.

We are also intending to reintroduce some extra-curricular provision including after school and breakfast clubs wherever possible.

However, even though all children will be back schools will be run differently. It will be a 'new normal' way of working. We still have safety restrictions to adhere to (the principles of which are outlined below). Many of the protocols and procedures that were implemented during the summer term will remain the same in the autumn term with the expectation that they will further embed so that children who did not attend in the summer term will themselves adopt the measures also.

So far, the positive messages from both the communities we serve and the parents and carers of our pupils have shown overwhelming support of everything we've tried to do so far. I now ask you again to continue to support us in September, and for as long as this virus stays with us, as we operate in this new way. The children have responded well to the new rules at school and understand the reason we are now doing things differently is to keep them safe. We ask that you help reinforce these rules outside of school and support us in our efforts to reduce the risk to them and to our staff.

Each of our schools have completed a comprehensive risk assessment, which will be reviewed and monitored on a regular basis by the trust. All elements of the system of controls are essential. All schools must cover them all, but the way different schools implement some of the requirements will differ based on their individual circumstances.

Each school will follow this letter by providing to you with the relevant measures they have adopted. The aim is to minimise the risks, whilst acknowledging that we can't negate them entirely.

Many of you will be worried about the amount of school time and learning the children have missed. This, of course, is a huge priority for us and has been a focus of our recovery plans. The best way to allow children to 'catch-up' is for specific activities and programmes to be put in place as an integral part of their wider curriculum. To identify specific gaps and plan specific teaching to address those and then build on that learning to take them even further forward. We have robust plans in place and will review them as we move through the term.

The last few months have been a trying time for all families and I hope that everyone is able to find time to rest and recharge. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the Autumn term.



Gary Evans  
Chief Executive Officer  
Blue Kite Academy Trust

## Government Guidance, Measures and Controls

Our planning is underpinned by the Department for Education's advice on effective infection protection and control which states the following:

"We are asking schools to prepare for all pupils to return full-time from the start of the autumn term, including those in school-based nurseries. Schools should not put in place rotas.

Schools must comply with health and safety law, which requires them to assess risks and put in place proportionate control measures. Schools should thoroughly review their health and safety risk assessments and draw up plans for the autumn term that address the risks identified using the system of controls set out below. These are an adapted form of the system of protective measures that will be familiar from the summer term. Essential measures include:

1. a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
2. robust hand and respiratory hygiene
3. enhanced cleaning arrangements
4. active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
5. formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

How contacts are reduced will depend on the school's circumstances and will (as much as possible) include:

- grouping children together
- avoiding contact between groups
- arranging classrooms with forward facing desks
- staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible"
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Within the government guidance, the systems of control that schools should adopt are clearly listed. This document will outline those systems of control and the Blue Kite trust has made them appropriate to our specific context and circumstance.

### System of controls

This is the set of actions schools must take. They are grouped into 'prevention' and 'response to any infection' and are outlined in more detail in the sections below.

#### **Prevention:**

- 1)** minimise 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)** clean hands thoroughly more often than usual
- 3)** ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- 4)** introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach
- 5)** minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible
- 6)** where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Numbers 1 to 4 must be in place in all schools, all the time.

Number 5 must be properly considered and schools must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.

Number 6 applies in specific circumstances.

#### **Response to any infection:**

- 7)** engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- 8)** manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community
- 9)** contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

Numbers 7 to 9 must be followed in every case where they are relevant."

Numbers 7-9 above may require school to share pupil/parent contact information with public health officials. This sharing of information is permissible under current law and is in line with data protection guidance covering schools.