



Department for Children, Adults and Health

Parents and Carers of South Gloucestershire  
Maintained Primary, Special and Secondary  
Schools

Date: 18/05/2020  
Your Ref: Covid-19  
Our Ref: Covid-19 Update  
Enquiries to: CAH  
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Dear Parents and Carers

### **Planning for re-opening of schools from 1 June at the earliest**

As you will be aware, last week the Government made a series of announcements about easing the lockdown, including proposals to start to re-open schools and settings from 1<sup>st</sup> June earliest for some primary year groups.

This letter is to share with parents and carers how we have been supporting our schools to ensure they are ready, should this happen.

We are aware that many parents and carers will be anxious about sending their children back to school and therefore we want to provide assurance that the local authority and a local school's first priority is to keep children and young people safe.

We have been planning our response to the announcement and from 1<sup>st</sup> June, across South Gloucestershire, we are hoping, although this is not confirmed yet, to see a phased return of pupils to our schools. **Central to our plans is the health and wellbeing of our children, young people and staff and ensuring that what is planned happens at the right time and at the right pace.**

Our school leaders have been working tirelessly in their planning for the re-opening. Individual school plans will need to reflect the communities served and will vary, as our communities vary. Each school plan will be based upon the needs of the pupils, a risk assessment of staffing availability, and the nature of school buildings.

This means that from 1<sup>st</sup> June there may be some schools able to offer places for all Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 6. However, there will also be schools that due to capacity are only able to offer places for key workers and/or a limited number of year groups for either a short or longer period of time. The local authority is supportive of this approach as we recognise that the factors to be considered will vary from one school to another and the approach taken must be based on a robust assessment of all risks.

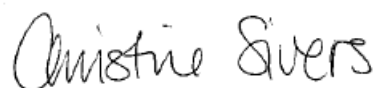
As a local authority we recognise that these past two months of lockdown have been challenging times for children and young people, school leaders, school staff and you as parents and carers. We would like to pay tribute to the exceptional hard work, dedication and commitment of everyone at this time.

We have seen across our schools a fantastic response to meeting the needs of key workers and vulnerable children. We have heard about countless school staff going above and beyond in their care and education of our young people including high quality support for on-line learning.

We will continue to work with our school leaders and support them as they work through these challenging times and we look forward to welcoming our children and young people of Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 back at the earliest opportunity.

If you do have any queries, please contact your school in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Chris Sivers  
Director of Children, Adults and Health

