



Horizons Specialist Academy Trust
Providing infinite opportunities

Chief Executive

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Rachel Glover

Principal

Dear Parent / Carer

Further to the letter sent by our CEO on Friday, I wanted to update you on our plans.

Currently we have around 20% of the pupils/students attending the site, on a 2, 3 or 5 day timetable. In some cases, these are part days rather than full days. We will continue to speak to each family at least once per week and make decisions about pupils/students coming back into school on an individual basis. We are working with alternative provision settings to ensure that those who would ordinarily attend placements can resume safely. We are using the following criteria to make these decisions, so please talk to staff about your views and needs:

- Children of keyworkers, or those who need their child to attend school so they can return to work under government guidelines
- Children who have a social worker, where the social worker agrees that the child should be in school
- Children who would benefit from time out of the home, for mental health and well-being reasons
- Children whose parents/carers would benefit from a break

You know your children best, and we want you to feel confident in the decision to send your child back to school. Whilst we may encourage you to send your child to school if we feel this is in their best interests, we will not insist on it if you remain concerned about the risk of Covid 19 to your child.

If your child or a member of your household falls into the 'Extremely Clinically Vulnerable' category, and has received a letter from the doctor, they should not attend school.

We will be taking measures to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid 19. These include:

- Purchase of non-contact thermometers to check the temperature of staff where necessary
- All staff and students to wash their hands for 20 seconds, with soap and water, on arrival to school, and regularly throughout the day
- Reduced numbers of students in school. When your child returns to school, they will attend for 2,3 or 5 days per week, or part days, depending on individual circumstances
- The school day will be either 9:30am - 2pm, or 10-2:30pm - this allows additional time for thorough cleaning each evening, and for staff to prepare materials and resources each morning to prevent the need to move throughout the building during the day
- Students will remain with the same staff in the same room(s) throughout the day. Surfaces, door handles and key areas will be wiped regularly, and each room will be thoroughly cleaned each afternoon. Where a room is used by more than one group, e.g. the hall or food room, these will be cleaned before the next group accesses the room.
- Breaks will be staggered, so that large groups are not accessing the same outdoor areas
- Medication for individuals and school lunches will be brought to classrooms to avoid gathering in the dining hall
- Only packed lunches will be available after half term

- Learning opportunities will be structured differently, as subject specialists will not be able to teach every child. Staff supervising each group will plan activities aimed to keep the group engaged and settled, to avoid the need for students to leave the room / more staff to enter. The safety of all members of the school community will always take priority over academic progress

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is available on site for staff, however the government does not recommend that face masks are worn in school. If a member of staff or pupil/student chooses to wear a face covering, this will be permitted providing they can do so safely. Should a child's behaviour require that physical intervention is used in order to keep them and everyone else safe, PPE may be used to protect all parties. Where a child requires regular or frequent physical intervention, we will liaise with parents/carers and other professionals involved to reduce the associated risks. This may mean that you are asked to collect your child early from school, or that their individual timetable is modified. Where a child's behaviour repeatedly puts other people at risk, they will not be allowed to attend school, and we will work with other services and the local authority to provide the most effective remote education possible.

All staff and pupils/students and their families are instructed to follow the social distancing rules outlined by the government. If your child is not following these rules outside school, please be honest with staff in school and allow us to keep all members of the school community safe by keeping your child at home.

We are in communication with the local authority to ensure there is communication with parents/carers about the measures taken on transport to reduce the risks of transmitting infection.

Please continue to encourage good hygiene for your child - encourage them to cough into a tissue and dispose of it; ensure regular handwashing. Please ensure your child washes their hands for 20 seconds with soap and warm water before leaving the house each morning and when they arrive home each afternoon. We would also ask that your child brings minimal belongings to school. Mobile phones will continue to be handed in and stored in an individual plastic bag before being locked away. Sharing of equipment brought from home will not be permitted - please discourage your child from bringing toys into school with them.

All children and staff attending school are able to be tested for Covid 19 if they develop symptoms. Please let school know at the earliest opportunity of your child develops symptoms, and we will provide support for you to arrange a test if you need it. If a child or member of staff tests positive for Covid 19, we will take the necessary measures and inform you.

We will continue to provide learning resources at home for times when your child is not attending school. Please check the school website and social media regularly for updates on this.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the above, please contact the school or discuss them with staff during your weekly phone calls.

Thank you for your continued support

Rachel Glover
Principal