

Director of Children and Families  
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22 May 2020

## **Children Returning to Schools**

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

During these difficult times, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting your child in their learning. I know that it isn't an easy task when trying to juggle many other commitments too!

As you are aware, the Government recently announced plans for secondary schools to offer some face-to-face support for year 10 and year 12 pupils who are due to take key exams next year. It is also expected that all vulnerable children should return if they have not already done so and it is safe to do so. For children with an Education Health and Care Plan, their individual risk assessment should be reviewed and if their needs can be met as safely or more safely in an education environment they should attend. If the risk assessment shows they cannot attend safely your school will support in identifying what provision can be put into place.

Year 10 and Year 12 pupils are not expected to be back in school or college full time on full timetables. The aim is for schools to give some support to supplement pupils' remote education. To keep pupils as safe as possible, schools have been advised to limit the numbers of year 10 and year 12 students in school at any one time.

I'm sure you understand that school leaders will therefore have a significant range of factors to take into account when deciding how much face-to-face support they can offer pupils. This includes how many staff are available to work and what subjects they teach, how many rooms the school has, what school bus arrangements are and the numbers of vulnerable and critical worker children already in school.

Because this range of factors will be different for each school, we have asked head teachers to make decisions on what their individual school can offer whilst keeping your child as safe as possible. June 1<sup>st</sup> is the earliest date that a school can begin a phased return of children to school. This date, however, may not be the date that your school begins their phased return.

What this means is that in Leeds each school may be doing something different. I know that this may be frustrating to some parents and carers when you are anxious for your child to return to school.

However, I am writing to ask you to be respectful of the decision made by the head teacher of your child's school, in the knowledge that their decision has been made with the safety of all children and staff at its heart.

I thank you in advance for your patience during these difficult times. I hope you and your families stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Tariq', with a horizontal line underneath.

Saleem Tariq OBE  
**Director, Children and Families**