

Parents/Carers in Brighton & Hove

Date: 10 June 2020

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Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to you today to update you on the council's advice about reopening schools to more pupils.

Since I wrote to you last week, the situation has continued to develop. We are now able to advise that Brighton & Hove schools and council nurseries should start opening more widely for pupils from Monday 15 June.

I must remind you that the decision as to whether a school opens more widely is, under the law, one for the headteacher to take, in consultation with the Governing Board.

The priority for a phased return will be for the years previously identified by the government and will be informed by the school's risk assessment. Infant and primary phase schools are asked to take in nursery years, reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. Secondary schools are asked to provide face to face support for young people in Year 10 and 12 during this summer term.

Pupils in these age groups are expected to return in a gradual way, with numbers being different from school to school. Individual school risk assessments will inform how best to manage this. Control measures are also in place in case of outbreaks, which will be managed working with the Public Health England Health Protection team for Sussex and Surrey.

Parents and carers can decide whether to send their children back in. While we would like to see as many pupils as possible back in schools, individual family choices will be respected and no fines will be issued for non-attendance this term.

Our previous advice that reopening to more pupils should not take place was based on advice from the council's Public Health team that there was not reasonable assurance that all the government's five tests were met locally, in particular around the Test and Trace programme. This was covered in more detail in a [response shared on Monday](#).

**Executive Director for Families, Children &
Learning
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Over the last ten days, the council's Public Health team has been closely monitoring the progress of the Test and Trace programme and how this is working in Brighton & Hove. Our Public Health colleagues now have sufficient reassurance that this service is in place to test anyone with symptoms of the coronavirus and trace their close contacts.

We recognise that schools and early years settings have been open throughout the pandemic, including the school holidays. Childcare has been provided for children of keyworkers and for vulnerable children, including SEND pupils, since schools closed to most pupils at the end of March. The system in place to support this small number of children attending school is well established and will continue.

Thank you for your patience in waiting for this further update from me and for all you are doing to support your child's education at this challenging time.

Yours faithfully,



Deb Austin
Interim Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning.