



## UPDATE ON WIDER RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS

As of 11<sup>th</sup> June, almost all schools are open to children of key workers and vulnerable children. The return of Year 6 children was initially planned for 15<sup>th</sup> June but this was paused until 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Having consulted with Cheshire and Merseyside Directors of Public Health<sup>1</sup>, they now feel able to support schools to progress their plans for a phased return of Year 6, if deemed safe to do so on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Infant and Nursery schools will continue to provide for children of key workers and vulnerable children if a rigorous risk assessment deems it is safe to do so. This will be based upon the individual context of each school and will be dependent upon the size and layout of the building, circulation around the site and availability of staff. Places will be allocated until a school reaches its capacity as determined by its individual risk assessment.

Secondary schools will be supported to progress their plans for a phased return of Years 10 and 12 as originally planned from 15<sup>th</sup> June, if they deem it safe to do so. As per national guidance, remote learning must remain the dominant mode of education for these year groups. Any face-to-face activity must be to only supplement remote learning. It should not be the primary mode of engagement.

PVI and special schools will continue with their current arrangements.

Schools can include Year 6 pupils from 22<sup>nd</sup> June and Years 10 and 12 from 15<sup>th</sup> June. This is subject to robust and rigorous risk assessments that have been shared with all staff and demonstrate that wider re-opening is as safe as possible. Once again, the stage at which schools are able to open for these pupils will vary from school to school. For example, some

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<sup>1</sup> The number of cases and deaths at a local level are at their lowest and must be factored into decision-making along with the R value. The R value is just one factor that needs to be considered with regard to the easing or tightening of lockdown measures which must also be balanced against the wider impact of lockdown on certain sections of the population. The evidence from the North West Scientific and Technical Advisory Cell shows very low transmission child to child and child to adult in schools.

schools may not be able to include Year 6 because of the number of children of key workers and vulnerable children.

Version 4 guidance includes information on liabilities. Headteachers and governing bodies are reminded that if they choose to go beyond DfE guidance this may increase the argument of 'foreseeability' of risk and thereby increasing the likelihood of being unable to adequately defend a possible claim. Colleagues from LCC, SIL, Public Health and Health and Safety will continue to support schools in this process.

Please continue to communicate your plans with parents and share risk assessments with your staff and trade union representatives.