



# The Willows Catholic Primary School

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13<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents

I hope this letter finds you all well. Following on from the Department of Education's advice on Monday we are trying to prepare for a partial reopening of school once we receive the go ahead from the Local Authority and the Diocese. As you will be aware the decision to reopen is only conditional at this stage. It is very much dependant on the infection rate continuing to decrease and will only be confirmed by the Government on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May.

If we begin to reopen school in June, this will only be for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and will be on a staggered basis.

Set out below are the basics of the Government Guidance for the potential reopening.

- Children will be split into groups of 15 and will be taught in separate groups. Please note that currently this means that half of each class will NOT be taught by their usual class teacher and will be taught by a different class teacher.
- The children will remain in their designated group with their designated teacher.
- There will be NO mixing of the different groups at all including the start of the day, during lesson time, playtime, lunchtime or at the end of the day.
- Start and end of day times will be staggered for each group of children to minimise the risk of infection.
- Breakfast and After School Club will not be operating.
- Break times and lunchtimes will be staggered for each group of children to minimise the risk of infection.
- Lunches will be served in the classrooms.
- Social Distancing rules will be adhered to at all times. However please note that social distancing cannot be guaranteed.
- No adults will be allowed to come into the school and all communication must be done at a safe social distance or electronically.
- The use of PPE is not being encouraged.
- Only one family member can escort a child to school or collect a child from school.
- Children are being encouraged to walk to school and only use a car if absolutely necessary.

Children who fall into vulnerable groups, or are children of critical workers are still eligible to come into school but school can only safely accommodate those pupils who have been accessing our provision to date and cannot add any more children to the list.

Whilst school is trying very hard to minimise the risk of any child or adult contracting COVID19, parents must be aware that we cannot guarantee that your child will not come in contact with it due to widening of the social boundaries from home isolation to school setting. If a child shows symptoms of Covid19 and subsequently tests positive then all children and staff from that group will need to self-isolate for 14 days. There is always going to be a risk, which all parents need to be aware of. This is why the decision to send children back to school is solely one for you as a parent to make. We can reassure you that parents will not be fined for children not attending school (in line with Government guidance). As a school, we will do our very best to keep the children at a safe





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distance from each other. However, as you will appreciate this is going to be extremely challenging for us all.

Over the next couple of days I will be sending out a questionnaire via the app asking for your views and asking you to confirm whether you will be sending your child into school or not so that we can make more detailed plans. Please note whichever decision you make you have the right to change your mind. This is simply an indication for us so that we can plan accordingly.

Thanking you for your cooperation and understanding. Please stay safe, happy and well.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S.A. Barnett  
Headteacher

