



Padgate Academy

Insall Road, Warrington WA2 0LN

Telephone: 01925 822 632

E-mail: info@padgateacademy.co.uk

www.padgateacademy.co.uk

Principal: Mrs M Barclay Bsc (Hons) NPQH

Our ref: MBA/MSI

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Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you with our arrangements for a proposed return to school for children as a school within The Challenge Academy Trust. We have worked closely with Warrington Local Authority to ensure our proposals are in line with other Warrington schools.

As you are aware, schools have only been open for the children of critical workers and for vulnerable students during weekdays, including holiday periods and bank holidays. The government is now asking schools and childcare settings to plan for a gradual further opening for more children to return to school.

The government have prioritised Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and have asked schools to plan some face to face time for students in Years 10 and 12. Please be aware that we have only been asked to put in place plans for reopening for these year groups and that this does not mean it will definitely happen, there should be a more definitive announcement from government on May 28th.

The government have made it clear that the gradual reopening of schools will only take place providing that their 5 key tests justify the changes at the time. Please be advised our proposals are subject to change based on the latest government guidance and parents and carers will be updated prior to any changes being made.

The earliest date in Warrington that some groups of children can attend school will be from 8th June. If this goes ahead students from all of the identified year groups will return gradually over a period of weeks.

Parents will need to decide whether to follow government advice or not, to allow your child to return to school, however it should be taken in to account that children who are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, due to pre-existing medical conditions, or children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, are not expected to return to school for the time being. Parents who decide not to send their child back to school until September will not receive any penalty or fine.

If children from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 do return to school after half term, they will be in smaller classes with up to 10 -15 children depending upon the size of the allocated space. Children may not be with their friends; however, they will be allocated to a group with children within the same year group. Once allocated within their group this will not be changed and children will not be allowed to mix between groups. Children may not be with their own teacher, some will be taught by a teaching assistant, however your child's class teacher will plan and supervise the teaching.

Students in Years 10 and 12 will also be phased in gradually and initially may be asked to come in to school for some health and safety induction and familiarisation with new routines. There may be some initial sessions with students on a 1 to 1 basis or in small groups and we will then work towards formal teaching of small groups in line with government guidance.



We will put measures in place to encourage children to remember to keep their distance from each other. Children will also not be able to share resources or equipment, nor will they be able to play games or sports that involve sharing any equipment or contact.

There will be changes to the start and end of the school day to stagger the timing to avoid parents congregating and to enable the two-metre social distancing. Times will be confirmed with parents when they are finalised. Playtimes and lunch times will also be staggered.

In order to continue to provide a safe learning environment for our children we will be **gradually increasing** the numbers of children attending school while it remains safe to do so. It is thought that by returning children gradually, we can initially reduce the number of children in classrooms compared to normal and it will allow us to put **protective measures in place to reduce risks**.


The government recognises that, unlike adults, younger children will find it more difficult to remain two metres apart from each other and staff, therefore additional measures have been put in place to try to minimise the risks of transmission, including:

- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- regular cleaning of all areas in school
- minimising contact and mixing, with children being put into small groups

We are also conducting health and safety checks in all of our schools which are in keeping with joint union guidance.

We will provide additional guidance and an information pack will be released in due course. While we continue to put in place a range of control measures to minimise risks, this will not mean that risks can be removed altogether and the decision about your own child's attendance will be up to you. Online work will still be provided for those students who do not attend.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Barclay
Principal

