

Nadhim Zahawi (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Covid Vaccine Deployment))

Gavin Williamson (Secretary of State for Education), Department for Education

Via email:

minister@zahawi.beis.gov.uk
gavin.williamson.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Minister,

We are pleased to note that the Prime Minister has announced that he is hopeful schools will be able to reopen from 8th March 2021. We are very proud of our school workforce in Sefton and the way they have supported pupils, families and their communities during this pandemic, responding quickly to changes in guidance, undertaking risk assessments and putting in Covid safe measures in their schools, setting up testing regimes and providing a mixture of on site and remote learning to their pupils. However, we believe that if the government is serious about prioritising education and getting children back to school, protecting the staff who make this possible through the vaccination programme is essential.

We fully support the prioritisation of our most vulnerable citizens in the first wave of the vaccine roll out and we have worked closely with our colleagues in the NHS to ensure that we have successfully rolled out mass vaccinations. However, we believe it is vital to vaccinate school and nursery staff so that schools can reopen but also believe it is vital that we protect those who have continued to provide face to face support throughout the lockdown to the children of critical workers and vulnerable children.

School and nursery staff have been at the frontline of the pandemic since last March, to ensure the continuity of education for children we would ask that they should be classed as key worker and prioritised for the vaccine to ensure that our children are able to access the face to face education that they deserve.

Yours sincerely,



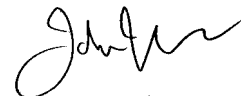
Cllrs Ian Maher

Leader of the Council



Trish Hardy

Cabinet Member for Communities
and Housing



John Kelly

Cabinet Member for Children,
Schools and Safeguarding

Copied to: All Sefton Headteachers