



MacIntyre Academies
Quest Academy

18th May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Update on Our Response to COVID-19

I wanted to get in touch again following the Prime Minister's announcements concerning schools last Sunday evening. As you will be aware the Prime Minister announced for schools (including special schools) that June 1st is the provisional target date for the phased return of more children and young people. Last week the Government provided schools with additional guidelines which we have been using to inform our plans to transition learners safely back into school.

For our school, we will not be focusing on returning specific year groups, it will be informed instead by a Risk Assessment approach for each individual - as we have been doing – working towards increasing the number of children in school.

In our planning we will also need to consider our staff: their union advice and health and transport to and from school.

Please be rest assured that we will not make any changes to current provision until we have conducted thorough risk assessments, received further confirmation from government to proceed and are fully confident ourselves that we can keep everyone safe. I will be working closely with the Local Authority, Trust and our Local Advisory Board and will keep you updated when this is all in place.

In the meantime I wanted to let you know about some of our considerations to keep everyone safe whilst increasing the number of children in school. This may impact your child in the following ways:

- Your child may work in a different group / classroom than usual
- Those who have been at home may start to increase their time in school
- Those currently coming into school may need to adjust or limit their timetable

We continue to follow Government guidelines to ensure the health and safety of everyone at Quest, including:

- Encouraging regular handwashing with hand sanitiser available.
- Establishing routines where learners and staff wash their hands at specific times during the day, for example, before and after eating food.
- Mid-day sanitising of touch points, desks and IT equipment, as well as the full site clean at the end of the day.
- Social distancing where possible i.e. one learner per desk, limited numbers in any room.
- Organising groups of children and staff into "family bubbles" to reduce the number of people coming into contact.
- Zoning the building to create clusters of classes to limit the possibility of cross contamination. (Hygiene measures and core staffing in the protected zones will allow us to limit the risk of 'spread' in line with Public Health England guidelines. It will also allow us to respond if a pupil or staff member in that protected bubble develops any symptoms)

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 Families First
Quality Award

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- Changing the timings of the day for different groups of learners with different “family bubbles” having different break and lunchtimes

Please try not to be concerned about the changes - whatever happens we will do our best to manage the transition process, keep you informed and work with you about the specific details for your family. As always the health, safety and wellbeing of all the families who may be returning and for our staff remain paramount in the action planning going forwards.

The government has given the following guidance about protecting clinically vulnerable adults at home:

- Your child can attend school if there is someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) at home, including those who are pregnant
- If there is someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable at home, as set out in the guidance on shielding, it is advised that your child only attends school if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and if they are able to understand and follow those instructions. We will talk with you individually if you are affected by this and agree a plan.

Our virtual school provision will continue to be a part of our provision until the full impact of COVID-19 is clear and all learners have returned to school full time.

To support us with our plans please can you complete the questionnaire (I realise that many of you will have already answered some of the questions during your conversations with our Family Footings Team) and return no later than Wednesday 20th May either through returning the questionnaire via email:

quest.office@macintyreacademies.org

Or by completing the form which you can access through the link below

[Family Questionnaire](#)

Thanks again for your ongoing partnership and support together with us to get through this unusual time in the best way possible. Please feel free to get in touch with any concerns or to discuss things further – I will let you know when there is more information and attach some links to the government pages below.

Kind regards

Principal Quest Academy

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Links to Latest Government Information for Parents

- [Q&A](#) which answers key questions parents may have
- [Guidance for parents on phased reopening of education settings](#)
- [Guidance for parents on supporting learning at home](#) for early years and primary age children (secondary school guidance to follow)

List of [online resources](#) to support children's development

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