



**AMBITIONS**  
Academies Trust



19<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Bayside Academy, Elm Academy, King's Park Academy, Kinson Academy, Manorside Academy and Queen's Park Academy

I hope that you and your families are well and staying safe. In over 20 years of working in education, I can honestly say I have never experienced anything like this before, however I work with an excellent team of senior leaders and we continue to all work together to ensure that the safety and welfare of all our children and staff remain our priority.

We are using the guidance that the Government send out to support us to make decisions to make our sites as safe as we can for a potential partial re-opening from 1<sup>st</sup> June onwards. The guidance we receive is often also updated on a daily basis and we continue to make changes as each week progresses.

Your Principal will be in touch with you shortly to communicate your academy's offer detailing how they are planning to partially re-open. In the meantime, it would be helpful to read the following questions and answers to help you prepare your children for a return to school, as it will be a very different environment to when they left in March.

**When will my school be open?**

If you are in Year R, Year 1 and Year 6 some of you will be possibly be coming back to school from the week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> June. Some year groups might start later in June, dependent on government guidance. All eligible children with parents who are critical workers or have a social worker, who have already been attending since March, will also continue to be able to come to school.

**What if I have another child in a different year group, other than YR, 1 or 6, can they come to school too?**

No, only the priority groups as listed above.

**Has the list of eligible children changed?**

At present the critical worker/key worker list from the Government has not been updated and therefore there is no change.

**Will my child need to come in uniform?**

Yes please.

**Will I need to provide any equipment?**

No learning equipment will be required as we will provide this - each child will have their own resource pack.

You will need to provide your child with their own water bottle and mid-morning snack. Serving jugs will not be permitted, this is to reduce cross contamination and reduce movement in a classroom.

**What if I need breakfast and/or after school care?**

From the 1<sup>st</sup> June we will no longer offer our Mini Ambers provision at any of our sites. This is due to needing all staff to work during the school day and also to reduce the cross contamination of groups. Mini Ambers will remain closed until further notice, but we would hope to re-open in the Autumn term.

**Will the start and finish times of the school day be the same?**

No. All sites will operate a staggered start and finish - this is to reduce contact across groups and for all sites to control social distancing expectations. You will be notified of your child's start date and their start and finish times by your Principal. Most times slots will be 15 minutes long, therefore it is absolutely necessary that children are not late as we do not have the staff to take your child to their room.

Some sites, due to the large numbers of children who are eligible for returning to school - in some cases this can be over 400 children - will be operating a shorter day and/or a shorter week.

**Will entrance and exit into school be the same?**

No. All sites will be operating a one-way system, therefore most children will enter/exit via a different gate and/or door. Most sites will operate a 'holding bay' in the form of a social distancing queue, outside the gates. There will be clear markings and we expect all adults and children to strictly adhere to these markings. Staff will be on hand to help and support you. The aim of this is not to have gatherings of people at any one time.

**Can I still escort my child into school?**

Of course, many children will need support from you to give them the confidence that everything is OK and that they are going in the right direction. Again, following the Government guidance, only one adult and one child will be permitted in the holding bays and through the gates. No adults will be allowed entry into the classrooms or into the school building.

**What if I have more than one child but they have different time slots?**

Where possible we will try and programme your slots at the same time, but this may not be possible and therefore we would expect you to go through the system again. If you have difficulties, then please contact your school office.

**How do I contact the office or a get messages to the staff?**

All school offices will be closed to all parents/carers and visitors. If you need to speak to a member of staff then please email or phone the office, if appropriate an appointment will be made for you, but otherwise entry into the school will not be permitted.

**How are you keeping my child safe when they are in school?**

We will be using lots of soap and water, as well as lots of anti-bacterial hand gel, on entry and exit, throughout the day, before lunch and at regular intervals.

Children will be placed into new smaller groups, which we are calling 'bubbles'. Your child will work in small 'bubbles' which may consist of 5 - 15 children with 1 or 2 adults. They will be taught by those adults all day, every day and remain in the same room for their lessons. Bubbles of children will not be permitted to mix or change - this is so we reduce contact and cross contamination.

**Will my child be taught by their original teacher?**

In most cases, no.

**Will my child be in their original classroom?**

In most cases, no.

**Will my child get to play and work with their friends?**

Only if they are in the same bubble.

**Will my child still have break times and play times?**

Yes of course. They will remain in their bubbles and will have designated times slots and areas for their bubble. Staff are working on the types of activities that we can provide for the children, whilst adhering to social distancing rules.

**How will you keep the areas clean?**

Working with all the site teams and contract cleaners, there will be a greater level of cleaning, with regular deep cleaning across all sites. In every classroom, there will be anti-bacterial sprays and wipes, gloves, tissues and staff will clean desks and door handles throughout the day.

**How will you keep the desks clean?**

Children will have access to their own desk and chair or carpet space throughout the day - no other child will use them. These desks/spaces will be 2 metres apart. Staff will regularly spray the desks and chairs down.

**Will the learning be the same as before?**

We will try to follow the curriculum but a greater emphasis will be put on the basic skills of reading, phonics, handwriting and mathematics.

**Will home learning still be offered to those year groups not attending school?**

Yes, this will continue. We also encourage the children to access the National Oak Academy and BBC online resources as much as possible.

**My child has an EHCP, will they continue to get support?**

Yes, but this may look and feel different to your child and in some academies their offer may be reduced.

**My child has been receiving Free School Meal vouchers, will this continue?**

If your child is in Reception or Year 1, they are entitled to receive universal free school meals - these will be provided for your child at school, therefore vouchers will stop.

If your child is eligible to attend and in any other year group, vouchers will continue and they will need to bring their own packed lunch.

If your child is not eligible to attend, then you will continue receiving vouchers.

**Will the lunches be hot meals?**

For most academies, no. We will provide packed lunches as it reduces cross contamination of resources and adults across bubbles. Most children will eat their lunches in their bubbles. This may change at a later date.

**Can my child change their time slot or bubble group?**

No.

**Might these new routines change?**

Yes, like everything at the moment, each academy will encounter aspects of their plans that work and some that don't and need to be adapted. Also, when the national picture changes and Government advice changes, we will adapt our plans and arrangements.

We all realise that some of these plans may not meet your needs, but please be absolutely clear, our plans are focused on getting our children back into school as safely as possible. All plans are being risk assessed by myself and the executive team and then again by our Estates team. We ask that you prepare your children for these changes as positively as possible to make them ready for a successful return.

In the meantime, please send my love and best wishes to your child and we all look forward to seeing each other very soon. Please stay safe and if you wish to contact me, please do not hesitate to contact me via your academy office.

Best wishes, as always



Mrs Prout  
**Director of Early Years and Primary Education**