

Exceed

Academies Trust

Update to parents 22.05.2020

Together we Exceed

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families have stayed safe and well during the time your children have been learning at home. I want to update you on our strategy for the wider opening of our schools.

As you know the Department for Education has asked schools to plan for a limited return to normal schooling from 1st June on the condition that there will be sound medical and scientific evidence that it is safe to do so. That final decision will be made by them on or around 28th May.

If the view is that we can open further, Exceed Academies Trust, in line with the majority of other Bradford Trusts has decided to initiate plans to prepare our schools to open more widely from 8th June.

- Our Primary schools and all through school will begin to slowly open for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils taking a phased and cautious approach. Our schools will be in contact with you with more detailed information about these arrangements based on their own specific risk assessments.
- Our AP Academy will consider how it will support the ambition to have some face to face meetings with their Y10 and Y11 students and will contact you to let you know how, when and if these plans will proceed.
- Our Y10 students in our all through Academy will be contacted and informed about any arrangements to bring them in to further support their home learning. Guidance on face to face meetings for this group is still, as yet, unclear. We will update the families of these students as soon as possible.
- Plans to open Nursery provision are being developed but remain subject to promised additional Government guidance. We will update families of Nursery children as soon as possible.

We have decided to delay wider opening until the 8th June as it will take us a number of days to prepare our buildings for social distancing, to train staff and to prepare lessons that can be taught with the new Covid-19 safety arrangements in place. Our priorities in making plans for wider opening are:

- The safety of pupils and staff.
- The quality of the education of those children that come to school.
- The quality of the education available to those children that are learning at home.

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Maintaining social distancing is a critical element of our risk assessment and planning. We are using the 'Hierarchy of Control' model used by SAGE (Scientific and Advisory Group for Emergencies) to help us make judgements about how to operate our schools as safely as possible and also ensure children can have a genuinely positive learning experience.

In partnership with other Bradford Trusts, Exceed Academies Trust has adopted five tests that must be met before we will increase the numbers of pupils and students attending any of our schools. These tests are:

1. Is there satisfactory and agreed risk assessments in place for the school?
2. Is there a satisfactory plan in place to ensure the safety of pupils?
3. Is there a satisfactory plan in place to ensure the safety of staff?
4. Is the site ready to welcome back pupils and staff?
5. Is there confidence that the plan is sustainable?

If any of our schools fail to meet these tests our schools will not open more widely on the 8th June.

It seems likely that our schools will remain closed to the majority of our pupils until at least September. As you know, a great deal of work has gone into supporting home learning since the lockdown. Plans to develop the next phase of home based learning are now being developed by our schools.

To conclude, I hope that it is clear to you that we have sought to interpret the DfE ambition to widen the opening of schools in a way that allows us the time to make our schools as safe as we believe they can possibly be. Our Headteachers will be in contact with you to provide more detail about precise arrangements moving forward.

Thank you for all for your patience and understanding and for all that you have been doing to support your children. I hope you all stay safe and enjoy the bank holiday weekend, and for our Muslim families who are approaching the end of Ramadan this weekend, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Eid and say 'Eid Mubarak'.

Kind regards

Duncan Jacques CBE
Chief Executive Officer