



Parent Briefing Note 6: COVID-19
8th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors to thank you all for your continued support, whether it be by supporting your child with home learning or keeping in touch with the staff at your child's school. We continue to miss our young people very much and pray for a time when we can all be together again.

I am also writing to provide feedback on our progress to date in delivering the government's ambition for wider opening to more children. Thanks to the collective effort of our primary colleagues, our five schools welcomed Year 6, in addition to the vulnerable children and key worker groups, into their schools on Tuesday 2nd June. Every single school has reported that the wider opening has been successful.

Each of our schools has its own unique profile in terms of numbers of pupils in attendance in the key worker/vulnerable and Year 6 groups, but what has been a common theme is that the numbers of pupils in attendance in the key worker/vulnerable group is increasing daily, probably in line with parents returning to work. Some of our schools have space for a further year group to be introduced, whilst others are just about at capacity with the current numbers of pupils in attendance. We would, therefore, respectfully ask that you book your place the previous week so that we are able to accurately organise our Bubbles within health and safety guidelines. Any child who has not had a place booked in advance may have to be refused entry if the Bubbles are at capacity and their attendance has not been pre-booked and confirmed.

Directors have discussed, at length, next steps for wider opening in our primary schools which included feedback from Principals on positives, challenges, capacity and local information from Public Health. It is quite clear that many of the areas in which our schools are situated have been hit hard by the virus in the first wave. We, therefore, remain uncompromising in our approach to protecting our pupils, staff and local community by taking a steady and measured approach to wider opening. Directors have considered the situation and have decided that we will, therefore, continue with the current strategy of opening to vulnerable and key worker groups and Year 6 pupils until the end of term. This

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situation will be maintained as long as we have sufficient staffing capacity available. What we would ask, therefore, is that if your child falls into the vulnerable category that every effort is made to ensure their daily attendance.

We appreciate that this decision may be disappointing for children and parents of other year groups, but we are sure you will agree that ensuring the safety of our community is paramount. Our staff will, therefore, continue to set quality home learning tasks for pupils who are not in school.

Directors have taken a similarly cautious approach to wider opening to Year 10 pupils at secondary level. A proposed plan has already been shared with Hagley staff which was approved by Directors yesterday. This plan and updated details will be being shared with parents during this week.

Directors will meet again to review the situation for primary pupils by 18th June 2020 and secondary pupils by 25th June 2020, after which you will be updated with any further plans for wider opening, should there be any changes.

We hope that you continue to feel supported and agree that the decisions we are taking are, first and foremost, in the interest of the health, safety and well being of our entire community.

Take care and God bless

Suzanne Horan

Catholic Senior Executive Leader (CEO)