

19 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

**LA Response to Increased Number of Parental Queries**

We are aware of a number of queries from parents that are arising regarding the variation across schools in the local authority as to which eligible year groups have been able to return to school.

As you will be aware, the process of widening access to pupils has been a logistical challenge. Government safety guidance must be adhered to, as well as guidance on how schools should prioritise which year groups return.

All of our schools in County Durham have unique challenges, including staffing available to work, size of building and classrooms, and the number of key worker/vulnerable children places that are required. The demand for key worker and vulnerable group places continues to increase as more parents return to work, and this continues to impact on schools' ongoing provision.

Government guidance clearly articulates that schools must prioritise key worker and vulnerable children above all others and this can affect the space and staff available to schools to be able to open to the wider year groups.

We would like to assure parents that school leaders and governors have been working closely with local authority representatives to ensure that their offer can be the strongest possible in line with agreed risk assessments, and we would like to thank them for all of their hard work during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely



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