

As part of the York Schools and Academies Board (YSAB), the Council has been working to support maintained schools in developing risk assessments in order that Headteachers and governing bodies can decide how many pupils can safely attend their schools in line with the government's guidance and planning documents.

This includes taking into account:

- the number of staff available
- the size of buildings to comply with social distancing requirements
- cleaning regimes
- the availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Schools continue to prioritise places for vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers. Their numbers determine schools' ability to allow other year groups to attend, including Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 which the government announced would be the first to return from the beginning of this month. This means that not all primary schools in York have admitted additional year groups, but they all continue to be open for vulnerable and critical workers' children, who are encouraged to attend. To support this, new cleaning regimes have been put in place and PPE has been delivered to Early Years settings and schools.

The city is taking a partnership approach to ensure that the decisions about wider opening are based on robust risk assessments. All schools are prioritising the health, safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff. Any decision to extend the opening of schools to additional year groups is being taken by headteachers with schools' governing bodies or trustees. Schools are in regular contact with parents and carers to confirm the arrangements for their school including current capacity and any changes to the timing of the school day.

In line with government guidance, all secondary schools are now open for Year 10 and 12 pupils on a part time basis to support online learning and with strict limits (25% of the year group) on numbers attending at any time.

The latest government guidance, issued on the afternoon of Monday, 15 June, raises the possibility that more primary pupils could be invited to attend, but under the current strict conditions, including smaller class sizes, social distancing and minimising contact between groups of pupils. This means that it may not be possible for schools to increase the number of pupils attending and the primary guidance states:

*There is no expectation on primary schools to welcome back additional children where they do not have capacity to do so.*

The new secondary guidance does not extend the year groups invited to spend time in school beyond Years 10 and 12.

Clearly there are many families who are keen for their children to attend school but are unable to do so at this time. We do not know how circumstances and

government guidance will change in future, but precautions preventing the spread of Covid-19 infection may be required for some time to come. Because of this we are currently developing plans for September. Reduced class sizes, the current limit is 15, mean that more teaching spaces and staff (teaching and non-teaching) are required so we are identifying how many places could be available and whether children's education may have to be a blended offer including time in school and time at home with strong home learning support.