



The
Bolton & Farnworth
CofE Primary
Multi Academy Trust
Together With God

Rupert Street, Bolton BL3 6PY

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10th June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Your child's school is a member of the Bolton and Farnworth Church of England Primary Multi Academy Trust; as it is the Trust that supports your child's school I wanted to inform you of our plans for full opening our schools in September taking into account the guidance from the DfE.

Firstly, on behalf of our Trustees, I wanted to start by expressing our heartfelt thanks to all of the staff in our schools for keeping our schools open throughout the lockdown period for vulnerable children, the children of key workers and to welcome as many children back into our schools from 1st June. Staff have achieved this whilst continuing to set work online, feeding back to your children and making regular contact with children at home. Our Headteachers have been working tirelessly to keep some form of education going for all whilst also juggling so many other aspects, including keeping up to date with Government guidelines. Throughout the crisis our cleaners and site staff have ensured that our schools have been kept spotlessly clean. I have been overwhelmed with the dedication of all our staff and I know that our staff have continued to go 'above and beyond' for which, I am deeply grateful.

I want to reassure parents of the excellent health and safety measures that are now in operation in each school. Your child's senior leaders have implemented a thorough risk assessment; this has been monitored closely by our Trust central team, to ensure schools have made their sites as safe as possible. The risk assessments will now be amended to accommodate all children back full time in September. Headteachers will contact you again to outline the plans for your child's school before the end of term.

Schools will continue to **look very different places** for the autumn term and there are certain new regulations that we are putting in place across our Trust from 1st September:

* Children with a temperature, cough or cold like symptoms or have no taste or smell will not be allowed into school – parents must tell us if their child starts to experience any of these symptoms.



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* We strongly encourage parents to engage with the Track and Trace system. Schools must ensure that staff members and parents/carers understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

- book a test if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit;
- provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace;
- self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). DfE guidance

* If a child lives in a household where anyone is showing these symptoms, they must keep their child at home for 14 days.

* If your child starts to feel unwell with any of the above symptoms whilst in school, they will be immediately isolated and you will be contacted to come and collect your child immediately.

* Children will be allowed to bring the usual schools equipment to school including book bags, reading books, P.E. kits and packed lunch. The preferred option for those children who normally bring a packed-lunch would be a small, disposable bag. Packed lunches will be kept at your child's place in the classroom. All children should also bring a bottle of water each day, clearly labelled as they will not have access to cups or water fountains during the day.

* It will still be important to restrict the numbers of parents and other adults on to the school site – this is to ensure the safety of all children and we ask that you abide by this. Your child's school will inform you of the arrangements for dropping-off and collecting your children. The government guidance will still require schools to stagger drop off's and pick up's. I would ask that you bear with schools in this logistical planning. Schools will try to accommodate families, though this may not always be possible. I would encourage communication with the school be by telephone or email. Please do not try to



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engage your child's teacher or other staff in conversation at the beginning or end of the day – their responsibility will be to closely supervise the children at this time.

* There will be no after school clubs in the autumn term, though breakfast clubs can re-open.

* The guidance states that children must sit in rows facing the front of the classroom.

* There will be no large gatherings such as assemblies, whole school events.

* Since the crisis began, we have increased cleaning in schools – including during the day when the children are in school. We will continue this in the new academic year.

Your child's school may have other individual regulations that they need to put in place depending on their school site etc. and will be communicating these to you. When the children are in school they will be kept in their phase group or class 'bubble' and only interact with those children in that phase group (i.e. EYFS, KS1, LKS2 and UKS2). These children will work together in the classroom, go to lunch together and stay together. It will not be possible to move children in or out of phase or class group bubbles.

Your child's teacher from September will be putting a short video on the online learning platform to introduce themselves and the classroom before the end of the summer term. Our schools have been working on appropriate transition activities and will continue to do so in September.

I must refer you to the government guidance on school attendance. From September attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. [This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:](#)

- [parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;](#)
- [schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence;](#)
- [the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct. DfE guidance](#)



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Our Trust is committed to providing the best educational opportunities within a COVID- secure environment that we find ourselves in. Mrs. N. Patel our School Improvement Director has been working with each school to put together a bespoke curriculum recovery plan based on each school's curriculum intent. Curriculum recovery planning will provide systems to ensure children catch up on the essential lost learning during the summer term.

I am extremely proud and thankful for the amount of work all staff in our Trust have undertaken during the health crisis. I hope all our staff, parents and children have a well deserved rest over the summer break.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Jill Pilling
Chief Executive Officer

Our Chair of The Trust Board, Canon Dr. Chris Bracegirdle writes...

There is little more that I can add to what Mrs. Pilling has written other than to endorse fully her thanks to all our staff for ensuring that, as far as possible, education has been able to continue and every effort has been made for our schools to be the safe places we all want them to be. We do owe Mrs. Pilling herself a huge debt of gratitude for all that she has done in leading our trust schools through these difficult times. She has responded promptly and professionally to the guidance that has been issued - often at short notice - and has done everything possible to ensure the best quality of care for our children and staff.

Canon Dr. Chris Bracegirdle
Chair of Trustees