

SACRED HEART RC NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Dear Parents/Carers,

Proposed Phased Opening of Sacred Heart from 1st June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

We hope that you and your family are well and coping in these challenging and unprecedented times.

Our school has been open for the children of key workers and vulnerable children since the lockdown began on 23rd March, and staff have been supporting the home learning of children who have not been in school. We are very grateful to you for the support that you have provided for your child/children over this difficult period. Following the government's announcement of its intention to begin the phased opening of schools from 1st June 2020, Plymouth CAST Multi Academy Trust has taken the following decisions about the opening of its schools.

Plymouth CAST will only consider the opening of its schools once invited to do so by the government on or after the 1st June, 2020, and once the government's 5 tests for moving to the next phase have been satisfied. Furthermore, each of our schools is required to complete a comprehensive risk assessment and planning process that will be approved by the Headteacher, Trust Education and Standards Manager, and Trust Director of Education before it is authorised to open.

The Trust will continue to work with our school leaders, staff, professional associations, local authorities, the Regional Schools Commissioner and government to ensure that the re-opening of our schools takes place at the right time and in the right way for the health, welfare and safety of our children, students and staff.

After careful consideration and extensive discussion, the Trust has directed its schools to begin its phased opening in the following way:

- In-school care provision for the children of key workers and vulnerable children from all year groups will continue.
- Any model of opening must include Year Six

- Where it is safe to do so provision must include Nursery, Reception and Year 1, or any safe combination of these year groups.
- No year group other than those specified by the government, N, R, Y1 and Y6 is able to return to school at this stage.

It is important to note that the Trust's directive and the local planning decisions of the school may change due to guidance from the government, the local authority, Public Health England, and other appropriate agencies. The government's date of 1st June for the phased re-opening of schools is only provisional and subject to the nature of the pandemic and national control measures as we approach that date.

Information Specific to Sacred Heart

Following extensive mapping, planning and researching parental views, we are not able to offer a full-time place to every child on the government's stated year groups (N/R/1/6). As the Trust has prioritised the attendance of Year 6, this means that in order to keep your children and the staff safe, we are **unable to accommodate nursery children in the plan**. We have tried every eventuality but we just cannot fit them in whilst sticking to the health and safety guidelines. Mrs Dickinson will be in touch with you all soon regarding ongoing home learning provision and to answer any questions that you might have in the first instance. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be offered a place in school, if they wish to take it.

A letter containing full details of the proposed opening will be sent out tomorrow. This will include start and end times for each bubble and further information regarding the operational plans.

If you have a child in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 and have indicated that you are unsure on your return form, or if you have changed your mind from your original option, please telephone the school office today on 01803 558298 to confirm your child's place.

Please remember that although this is our plan for June 1st, the government may still change things if the five tests for moving to the next phase are not satisfied.

We are very grateful to you for your support and understanding as we try to manage this situation in the best interests of our children, families, staff and the national COVID-19 recovery plan.

Yours sincerely,



Raymond Friel
CEO, Plymouth CAST



Nichola Day
Headteacher, Sacred Heart

