



**Policy for the prioritisation of in-school education during the COVID 19 pandemic**

**June 2020**

**This policy applies to pupils already on role in schools that are part of the Coast Academies. It does not form part of the trust's policy on new school admissions.**

## **Context**

The Covid 19 pandemic has seen schools around the country closed, open only to children of key workers and those considered vulnerable. At the beginning of June schools were given authority to open to more pupils. These pupils being in Years N, R, 1 and 6.

The Department for Education confirmed that schools had flexibility to ensure that when bringing further children back into school it could be done in the safest possible way. Coast Academies agreed that each school should open according to its individual risk assessment and safe capacity. This means that schools within our trust may have different arrangements in place.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of June schools were given further options to consider bringing back children from additional year groups where it could be done following the safety guidelines including allowing only a maximum of 15 children per “bubble”.

## **Rationale**

The over-arching principles behind this policy are that children and staff must be kept as safe as possible, following the guidelines set out by the DfE. We are absolutely committed to bringing as many children back into school but will always prioritise safety. We also believe that for vulnerable children and the disadvantaged, school is a place of equality and safety and contact with key adults is vital to the social and emotional welfare of these children.

In addition to this, we believe that the transition between key-stages and from Year 5 to 6 are critical points in primary education, where a loss of teaching and learning is more challenging to address in later primary years.

## **Strategy**

- In school provision will be made available to children of key-workers, those considered vulnerable and, where possible, all priority year groups identified by the government. This provision may be on a part-time basis and increased to full-time where an individual school has the capacity to do this
- Children in other year groups may also be able to return to school if an individual school has the capacity and staff available to do this safely
- Where a school does not have capacity to include all eligible children, children will be admitted according to the *over-subscription criteria* listed within this policy.
- Priority to returning year groups will follow the *priority guidance* in this policy.

- Where over-subscription occurs, the trust delegates authority to the Head of School to make a local decision based upon the criteria in this policy.
- Where parents do not take up their offer of a space in an open year group, that offer may be withdrawn to facilitate wider opening to other pupils. Notice will be given.

### **Priority Guidance**

Where school capacity is limited, schools will allocate places to pupils in the following order:

Pupils (on roll) of staff required to open provision

*DfE Priority groups*

Pupils considered to be vulnerable (as defined by the DfE)

Children of key workers

Nursery

Reception

Year 1

Year 6

*If any capacity exists Coast Academies will prioritise the following year groups*

Year 5

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Please note pupils may be asked to attend on a part-time basis

### **Over-Subscription Criteria**

We know that not all spaces within open year groups are immediately taken up. In the event that there is a request for space in an open class, but such a request would take the school beyond its capacity to operate safely, priority will be given to pupils in the following order:

- Pupils (on roll) of staff required to open provision
- Pupils considered to be vulnerable (as defined by the DfE)
- Children already in attendance at school
- Children in households where both responsible adults are deemed to be key workers, or a single parent is a key worker
- Children living with two responsible adults, where one is a key worker
- Siblings of pupils already in attendance

### **Complaints**



The trust does not offer the right to appeal against decisions taken under this policy. Complaints should be made in line with the trust's complaints policy which can be found on the trust website: [www.coastacademies.org.uk](http://www.coastacademies.org.uk)