



Dear Parents / Carers

7th July 2020

September planning and parental consultation

- **New government guidance, published 2 July 2020 – Guidance for full opening: special schools and other specialist settings:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings>

Following this new directive from the government last week, we have acted swiftly to plan for the new academic year, beginning on 1 September 2020. Please find attached calendar dates as a reminder. As indicated, school will be open to pupils on Friday 4 September 2020, after the 3 staff training days.

In line with guidance, we plan for a short phased return, however we understand that many families will have found the 6 weeks of the summer holiday challenging, due to outstanding COVID-19 restrictions that are still in place. Therefore, in respect of this, we will open:

- To our most vulnerable pupils, on **Friday 4 September 2020** – we will identify 50% of pupils to return in this phased way based on known information. This is in line with current numbers accessing school.
- To all pupils, on **Monday 7 September 2020**

- **Parent/ carer consultation – identification of personalised approaches**

Following parental feedback and information provided in this new guidance, we are keen to support all pupils to return without the need for a pupil rota. We understand that some parents/ pupils will feel apprehension about this, as we anticipate that this will be an uncertain time, and so we seek your input to ensure your child/ young person returns to Severndale successfully.

- **Consultation window:** Please email louise.tilley@severndaleschool.co.uk by Wednesday 15 July 2020 if you feel that your child/ young person requires a personalised approach to return in September.
- Please let us know your thoughts and where possible, give suggestions/ strategies that we may consider in order to support your child's personal circumstances/ individual needs in this next phase of transition and change. We understand the importance of working with families to enable a successful return.

Planning and safety measures

Please see the attached leaflet to gain clarity of our expectations, and an insight into some additional changes to our working practice that will help enable our pupils to flourish in a safe and calm environment throughout the rest of the pandemic and beyond.

Information regarding 2020-21 class groupings and support for transition is being finalised and will be sent to you tomorrow.

Please let us know if you have any further queries as we move forwards during this exciting new phase.

Kind regards

Sabrina Hobbs
Principal