

XAVIER CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST  
**ST ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**



***St Anne's Mission Statement***

***With Christ at the centre of our lives, we live out our call to serve the young: "It is not enough to love children, they must know that they are loved"***

20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I have been asked on behalf of the Governors to add our thoughts to the Headteacher's letter. In terms of our expectations for the school, there has been a change of emphasis, but not direction. Safeguarding remains the priority of ourselves and every other school in the country. We have updated our policy to reflect the new working arrangements, but otherwise nothing's changed. Our vision for the school remains unchanged, as does our expectation. Once we are through this we will look forwards not back.

The Governors and staff of St Anne's want nothing more than to see all of our children and staff return to school. The staff have been supporting a small group of children in school whose parents are key workers, some others who are currently eligible to come into school and all the children at home as well! We have missed the rest of the children very much and would love to see them all back and learning with their teacher and playing together in the playground with their friends. We know how difficult some children will have found the lock down and we appreciate how challenging this will have been for many parents. However, we as governors agree completely that we must ensure that, when more children and staff return to school, it continues to be safe for everyone. There are so many unknowns with this virus that managing the return of more pupils to school needs very great consideration and very careful planning.

As I have remarked the school has been looking after vulnerable children and those children of Key workers. **The new guidance from the government and unions overnight has stated that all critical workers are actively encouraged to be in school and this group we feel, will widen hugely.** They therefore must be the priority group and when we have those numbers in it is likely we will not have the capacity for other year groups. I ask for your patience while the school organise this group. The difficulty is also that the staff looking after the group have to stay in that priority group bubble. So that then leads to how staff many will be left to look after the rest of the children.

I am sure you would agree that the safety of our pupils and our staff must remain the primary concern in our plans for a return of more children in June. When assessing the safety of increased numbers of children and staff returning to school, we base our decisions on the guidelines given by the government, the guidance of the Academy MAT and also the rigorous risk assessments and planning undertaken by the senior leadership in school.

Therefore the planning you have seen above seems to us to be the safest and most secure way to bring some of our children into school. I am sure you have heard different scenarios in the media but we feel that we should start with smaller groups.

I would like this opportunity to say a great thank you for your support and patience. Mrs Murphy and staff are very aware of your concerns and needs.

I also have to praise the amazing work that every person on the staff are contributing at this very difficult time. I am in constant communication with the school and I know that all staff are working day and night to support you and your children.

All the Governors are immensely impressed by the leadership of Mrs Murphy and her clear vision and planning for your children. I know that she works all week and weekends to ensure that all children and parents are provided for and have backup. I know because I have phoned at all times of day and night.

Whilst some amongst us will be happy to go back to school, there will also be some who are nervous, both parents/carers and school staff. That is a perfectly human response. I would like us to bear that in mind. We are as desperate to get back to normality as everyone, but it is more likely to be a journey than a specific date in the calendar.

Finally I'd like to thank you. I hope we never go through anything like this again as long as we all live, but the support you have shown Mrs Murphy and the rest of the school has been heart-warming. As a society we are learning who really matters in a time of crisis and I hope this is a memory we all carry once we come out the other side.

I do sincerely hope that my letter finds you, and all those you love, healthy and safe in these challenging times.

God Bless you all

Lyn Derrington  
Chair of Governors