



**Statement following the Government's announcement of a possible partial return to schools for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and year 6 pupils for parents and carers of Equals Trust schools.**

In light of the statement by the Prime Minister on Sunday evening and the subsequent following advice on Monday, we would like to reassure parents and carers that whilst Equals Trust schools continue to provide for our vulnerable children and the children of keyworkers to enable them to continue working, we are now making plans for a possible partial return for our Nursery, Reception, year 1 and year 6 pupils in June.

It is important to keep in mind that the Government have stated that this is a conditional plan and as such its implementation will be dependent on many factors that will ensure it is safe for children to return. This includes the Government's data on the levels of Coronavirus being favourable and the explicit guidance for return that schools will need to implement to make their environments safe.

We are working closely with the Local Authority and unions to prepare our schools and the many factors we need to consider; for example, the cleaning of schools before and after a reopening, how much space inside and outside at school compared to the numbers of children expected to return and the amount of staff we are expected to provide and the numbers we have available. We have already bought in large amounts of tape for social distancing and hand sanitiser, however we must have everything we need to ensure that everyone is safe and that we support the Government and authorities to end the threat of the virus. We all want a return to a better normality, but this will depend on the conditions being right. As we have seen, returning too early is not beneficial to recovery. Your child's safety is of paramount importance to us.

Best Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Palmer".

Phil Palmer

(CEO)

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Peter Foale".

Peter Foale

(Chair of the Board)

