



22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

**Follow up 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.**

Dear parents and carers,

I know the Head Teachers of your schools have been communicating with you about a possible partial reopening from June 1<sup>st</sup>. Although everyone is trying to support the government in this, it has been very difficult to set a date as the information and advice changes daily. As Equals Trust, we have been consulting with a range of professional bodies to ensure we are able to advise our Head Teachers to mitigate as many risks as we can. We have developed risk assessment documents to support schools in achieving this, which are part of the processes (listed below) we will undertake before schools will reopen. The unions have been very helpful and will provide feedback from their perspective.

1. Completed risk assessments
2. Equals Trust to review the risk assessments and give feedback
3. Unions to review the risk assessments and give feedback
4. Head Teachers to deliver risk assessment training to staff and prepare the school environment
5. School Governing Bodies to agree the schools risk assessments
6. Equals Trust Executive Team and the Board to agree that the government's 5 tests have been met and the risk assessments have been completed and approved by the Board.

This is a thorough process and designed to make our schools as safe as possible for the children in our care. However, this will take longer than we originally thought due to the updated guidance and circumstances we are faced with. We are also expecting larger numbers of children of keyworkers, so we want to manage this as safely as possible. The government plan to announce if the desired outcomes of the 5 tests have been achieved and whether the conditions for schools to reopen have been met on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May. Therefore, we are asking our schools to partially reopen on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June at the earliest. In the meantime, schools will remain open for children of keyworkers and vulnerable children. Again, we will have to review any new guidance, but we feel this gives our schools and staff the best opportunity to reopen safely. Thank you for your patience and consideration at this time. The safety of your children and the school staff are of paramount importance.

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)

