



MARYPORT EDUCATION GROUP COVID-19 CHARTER

We hope this communication finds you well and managing in this very strange situation.

Maryport area Head Teachers had a Zoom meeting earlier this week where they discussed the possible reopening of our schools. During that meeting, all the Maryport area Head Teachers agreed that both the physical and emotional safety of our children, families and staff is to be of the primary importance when making any decisions about reopening schools. We are desperate to have our schools open, have our children back where they should be but THE most important thing, to all of us, is that the children come back to us as safely as possible.

The group have studied all of the guidance sent to us, including guidance from the government Department for Education, from Cumbria County Council and from joint shared unions. All of these groups, accept that each and every school will have to manage the reopening its doors in a different way. No two children are exactly the same. No two schools are exactly the same. Each school will have to carry out a detailed and individual risk assessment in relation to how many children the school can accommodate and how many staff there are available.

It was agreed by all the Head Teachers, that none of us can completely guarantee that schools will be entirely COVID 19 secure. No medics and no scientists in the world can guarantee this. All any of us can do, is our absolute best to reduce risk as much as possible.

There are however several things that we can promise to do and as group of Head Teachers, although our schools are all very different, these are the things that we agree are very important. These are the steps that we will endeavour to take to try and keep your child safe.

1. Remember the way schools reopen will look and be different because every school is different.

2. As with the hub schools that were running up to the Whit holiday, each school in the Maryport Cluster, will prioritise accommodating the children of key workers, vulnerable children and children who have an ECHP (GROUP 1 children). The new new guidance as to who are now recognised key workers is attached to this email. Group 1 parents will be emailed a booking form with further details.

3. We agree that we will endeavor to keep children in their own discrete separate bubble, with the same staff, at all times.

4. We agree that, at this present time, the accommodation of nursery children in our schools is not viable as a group but individual schools may accept nursery children if they are Key worker children, vulnerable or have an EHCP.

5. All schools that are community schools will need to carry out the Cumbria County Council risk assessment before opening. Any academy schools, can choose to follow whichever risk assessment they want.

6. All schools will also have regard to the joint union advice and guidance issued. Schools are workplaces and are therefore bound by the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

7. Where possible, schools in the Maryport cluster endeavour to open for Group 1 children on Thursday, June 4th June but please keep your eye out for communications from your own individual school schools regarding exact opening details.

8. Should everything be going as well as possible, in the third week, June 15th schools in the Maryport group will look to consider which other children may be offered a place in school.

9. All schools in the Maryport cluster endeavour to maintain 2m social distancing for children and staff. Although this cannot be guaranteed.

10. No parents or carers will be allowed into the school building and children will have to be brought to school and collected from school by an adult, so as to ensure social distancing. Should it be reported that families are not social distancing outside of school, in order to reduce the risk of infection, schools retain the right to then refuse a place for that child(ren).

11. So as to ensure equality of opportunity, all children in school will be following the same online and/or printed learning tasks as those children not in school

12. All schools in the cluster acknowledge that children will not be able to share toys or pens and pencils and will need to have their own equipment, provided by school, that stays in school. Individual schools will be in touch with you as to whether or not school kitchens can be opened.

13. All schools agree that all soft furnishings will have to be removed from school, rooms and all surfaces will need to be cleared.

14. All schools agree that children, wherever possible, will need to sit individually and not in groups. This includes playtimes and lunchtimes.

15. Schools in the cluster recognise that children should wear different and clean clothes every day they attend school.

16. Schools in the Maryport cluster agree that, depending on individual risk assessments, personal protective equipment (PPE) may need to be worn, by staff and/or children depending on the setting of the school.

13. Should, for whatever reason a school in the Maryport cluster be closed, please note that there is an agreement between all of the schools, in order to reduce the risk of infection, that the children cannot join another school.

14. Please note that each school will have a varying degree of office capability and so as to reduce the risk of infection, do not expect school offices to be open as usual.

15. Please note that the curriculum is suspended until September but your child will be provided with learning tasks relevant to their capabilities.

16. All Maryport schools respect the fact that whether or not you send your child back to school is your choice. We, as Head Teachers, totally respect your choice. Presently, the government are not looking at any consequences for those who decide to keep their child(ren) at home. **YOUR CHILD, YOUR CHOICE.**

17. Schools recognise that there will be need for deep cleaning to take place during the week.

Obviously, all of these matters depend on any new government advice and updates and on how successful the reopening of each individual school setting is. Risk assessments will be undertaken daily and checks maintained in order to see that precautions are as effective as can be but obviously we cannot promise that our settings are completely COVID 19 secure.