



23 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to share that the DfE guidance has been updated and will now allow us to plan for Year 8 pupils to attend school on a part-time basis. The updated guidance states:

Where schools have capacity, they may choose to welcome back additional pupils. It is up to schools to decide which pupils to prioritise, based on their knowledge of their children and communities. They may choose to welcome back pupils in another year group. Where middle schools choose to invite year 8 pupils back, they should be confident they can manage this within the strict measures we have asked primary schools to adopt (including no more than 15 in a class, and consistency of these groups).

We would encourage middle schools to ensure that the use of public transport to travel to and from school is minimised as far as possible, and where it is totally necessary, this should not be during peak times. They should also consider the potential risks inherent in broader social mixing outside school and communicate with pupils about not socialising with each other in groups outside school. They may also want to consider staggered starts and finishes.

To this purpose we have a plan that includes:

- An afternoon per week for pupils to spend with their tutor commencing the week beginning Monday 29 June. This will mean 3 sessions for each Year 8 pupil before the end of the year.
- Groups of no more than 14 in size. Tutors will organise this based upon friendship groups within the tutor group as much as possible.
- Sessions will run from 1.30pm – 3.00pm. This will avoid all other groups of pupils currently receiving provision in school.
- Pupils need to arrive on the bottom playground by the hut. The temperature of every pupil will be taken before they enter school. If your child shows a high temperature you will be contacted regarding them returning home. The pupils will also be dismissed from this playground in the afternoon. Please discuss arrangements around travelling home and be aware of the government requirement that groups of young people do not congregate together.
- Pupils will need to bring a waterproof in case of rain, a drink (water), as well as their pencil case containing a pen, pencil, etc.
- Pupils should not wear uniform as their clothes will need to be washed when returning home.
- The 3 sessions (1 per week) will focus upon transfer and transition.

This plan allows for all of the pupils to prepare for their new school as well as say their goodbyes to Fairlands. There are many other leaving activities, such as an awards ceremony, shirt signing, etc. that we are still hoping will take place at a later date.

You can expect a call this week from a member of staff to inform you which day is available for each pupil, as well as answering any queries. We hope that as many pupils as possible will be able to take up this offer, but appreciate it will not be viable for everyone.

Yours sincerely

Stefan McHale
Headteacher



Fairlands Middle School

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Associate Leaders: Robert Cooling and Matthew Vincent SENDCo

Safeguarding Children is everyone's responsibility.

If you are worried about any child please make an appointment to see either Helen Heffernan, Designated Safeguarding Lead or Robert Cooling, Felicity Grant, Sally Virgin, Designated Safeguarding Deputies
Alternatively, you can phone NPSCC: 0808 800 5000 Somerset Direct: 0300 123 2224