

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: EDUCATION SETTINGS, SCHOOLS AND EARLY YEARS

### 1. Why is the County Council advising not to open to accommodate reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils from 1 June?

We have set out [clear advice](#) from our Director of Public Health. In summary, he has carefully examined all of the evidence, and believes that two of the five government tests for the easing of restrictions are not being met in the county. As we consider the health and wellbeing of our pupils, families and school staff incredibly seriously, we feel we must do the responsible thing and give this advice. The reasons are clearly set out in the guidance.

### 2. Why have we been informed two days before we plan to re-open?

We appreciate that lots of work has been done to get schools ready for opening to more pupils, and that this guidance has come quite late in the day. However, the government has only just given information about how the contact tracing process will operate and, whilst this process has formally begun, the system has not yet been fully developed. We await further information from central government we need this to be confident that the virus can be effectively contained.

### 3. What is the status of my risk assessment and can I choose to open if the head teacher and governing body feel that the right controls are in place to manage risk?

The choice on whether or not to open more widely to pupils is one for the head teacher, in consultation with the governing body. We are providing advice, not direction, but are actively encouraging schools to follow the advice.

### 4. Is the advice from the DPH also for special schools and early year's settings?

The advice is pertinent for all settings including special schools.

### 5. In the last few weeks, the numbers of valuable children and those of key workers has increased, should we now refuse to accept increased numbers?

No, since the beginning of this crisis, schools have been encouraged to accept valuable children and those of key workers **and this has not changed**. Our advice to schools is to not re-open widely to more pupils on June 1<sup>st</sup>, but to continue with the current support systems that are in place for vulnerable children and children of key workers.

### 6. When will the conditions be right to support the DfE guidance to open more widely and how will this be communicated?

We are keeping this under constant review.

### 7. I do not understand the rationale for this decision, can you please clarify it?

The [guidance](#) you have received clearly sets out the rationale in detail.

### 8. Does this include early years as in childminders?

Yes, this includes early years, childminders and nurseries.

**9. Most of our early years provision is delivered through our PVIs (private voluntary and independent provision) can you confirm that the recommendations includes them?**

Yes, we are encouraging all settings to adopt this advice.