



Ref:Re-OpeningInformation/CTY/wlr

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

## School Re-Opening Information

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. I would like to provide you with information regarding the re-opening of the school to certain year groups. I hope this letter and the information within, serves as a useful update so you can make the best choice for your child or children.

Please note that there are on-going discussions with stakeholders and a meeting of the Wade Deacon Trust Board on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June and the plans below are subject to approval by the Trust Board. However, I felt it was important to share this information before this meeting.

As you are aware following the slight easing of the current 'lockdown' procedures, schools were asked by the Government to begin preparing for a partial return to school of children from the year groups Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and consideration of support to Year 10 students.

From **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June**, we will support the transition of **Reception, Year 1 & Year 6** into The Grange Academy.

Following further government guidance we will look to support **Year 10** in returning to school for support in the week beginning **22<sup>nd</sup> June**. A separate letter for Year 10 will follow once a programme is finalised.

I would like to set out below how we intend to do this safely for students, staff and yourselves as parents and carers for the year groups above whose parents/carers have indicated they would like a place at school through the recent surveys.

I am sure many parents/carers may wish to 'wait and see' how we can implement our plans. I fully understand this, however, please be aware that we will need at least 5 working days' notice to admit further students due to the complex nature of the planning involved. You will not be able to simply 'drop off' your child(ren) without informing the school.

**My apologies for the length of the letter but it is important you read each section thoroughly.**

### Clinically Vulnerable & Clinically Extremely Vulnerable

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school.

ASPIRE FOR EXCELLENCE



## **The School Day**

The timings of the school day will be staggered to ensure we can maintain social distancing on arrival and exit from the school. The table below sets out the timings of the school day under these circumstances.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Start Time</b>	<b>Finish Time</b>	<b>Finish Time on Friday *</b>	<b>Main Base</b>
Reception	9.00am	1.00pm	12.00pm	Infant Classrooms
Year 1	9.15am	1.15pm	12.15pm	Infant Classrooms
Year 6	8.45am	1.30pm	12.30pm	English Wing
Year 10	This will be confirmed with individuals			
Key Worker / Vulnerable Group	8.30am	2.40pm	2.40pm	Maths Wing

\* **Friday** – school will close early to allow deep cleaning to take place of all classrooms in preparation for Monday. This will also allow staff the afternoon to plan for the next week's activities. Lunch will be provided so these can be taken away with the students. Key worker and vulnerable groups will still have lunch at school.

## **Drop off / Pick Up - Use of the Car Park & Public Transport**

As you can see from the timings of the day, we have staggered these to ensure social distancing can be maintained. We are asking all parents and carers that 'drop off' and 'pick up' to remain **OUTSIDE** the school gates on Latham Avenue and please adhere to the 2m Social Distancing. Staff members will be outside on the plaza to collect your child(ren).

**Please note: Only one parent/carers should 'drop off' and 'pick up'.**

Upon arrival, students will be asked to line up (2m apart) and use the hand sanitizer provided before they enter the building. As each year group has their own area this will limit the amount of cross over during the school day.

If you are driving to school please ensure you park in one of the marked bays and **bring your child(ren) to the gates on Latham Avenue**; the gates at the side onto the plaza will be for **staff only**.

If students are using public transport, please ensure you and your child are fully aware of the guidance for the use of local buses. The recommendations on transport to and from school allude to reducing any unnecessary travel on coaches, buses or public transport where possible (for example, by walking or cycling to school).

If you have children in different Year Groups expected to attend but have different start and finish times please can you drop them off for the earlier start time and the older sibling can go to their classroom/area. In terms of picking up; siblings will need to leave together at the earlier finish time. **If you can make this known to a member of staff at the front of school when dropping off this will help our planning.**

Students that arrive through the Local Authority SEND Taxis – please can you contact Ms Salisbury and Ms McPartland who will be happy to advise.

***Please can I politely remind all parents and carers to observe the social distancing measures at all times and be patient with each other and staff as this is new for everyone. You should not gather outside the school gates after dropping off or picking up.***

### **Uniform & Mobile Phones**

Students will **NOT** be expected to wear uniform; however, we do expect students to be in clean and appropriate clothes every day. Please can students wear appropriate footwear, no sandals or flip-flops. This decision has been taken to reduce the chance of infection from dirty clothes and we appreciate that daily washing of uniform might not always be practical. Hoodies, jackets, coats and outdoor attire are not permitted in the school building.

**During this period, NO Mobile Phones should be brought into school.**

### **Class Bubbles & Class Sizes**

We have worked very closely as a school team and with external support from the Wade Deacon Trust and their Health and Safety advisors. We are working on the premise of having 'class bubbles.'

This means that classrooms in the primary areas (Reception and Year 1) will be in class bubbles of no more than 10 children. These bubbles will have the same teacher throughout the day / week as far as is reasonably practical. Each bubble will have their own classroom, individual table and equipment, and access to a designated toilet to ensure we reduce the risk of infection.

Year groups accessing the secondary phase areas (currently Year 6) will be in class bubbles of no more than 8 students. These bubbles will have the same teacher throughout the day / week as far as is reasonably practical. Each bubble will have their own classroom, individual table and equipment, and access to a designated toilet to ensure we reduce the risk of infection.

Bubbles will have their own designated area of the playground and they will be able to 'play / socialise' with members of their class bubble only. Staff will take every reasonable step to ensure students are adhering to these bubbles and social distancing measures.

Children may not be with their friends and may be allocated to a group with children from another class in the same year group. Once allocated these groups will not be changed as children will not be allowed to mix between groups.

***Children may not be with their usual class teacher, as classes are split and groups of children and adults will have to remain the same.***

### **Learning**

I know you appreciate, this is a very complex and challenging situation for all concerned and it is only to be expected that learning will be different. Staff will provide a range of activities and learning to suit the needs of their classes. Practical activities in subjects such as Science, DT and PE will not be taking place presently due to the nature of the activities and the complex risk assessments needed for these to be safe. However, physical activity will be built into the activities that staff plan for.



We will provide each student with their own pack of equipment, which should not be shared with any other students; staff will reinforce this with students at regular intervals.

We will endeavour to ensure learning is as structured as possible with primary focus on the core subjects of English and maths.

### **Toilet Facilities**

We are incredibly fortunate to have a new building with many toilet areas. We have planned to use areas to ensure each class bubble has access to their own toilet area – please note during this time all toilets will be unisex. There will be soap, hot running water and electric hand dryers available in all toilets and students will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly.

### **Signage**

We will increase the signage around the school to remind all students to wash their hands regularly and observe other infection control measures. Hand washing will be built into the day for students. We will ensure signage is widely used and that we demarcate appropriate distancing when children access areas and for visitors to the school.

### **Lunch, Break Time & Food and Drink**

A packed lunch will be provided for all students that are in school. This will be brought by a midday assistant to their classroom to ensure that we limit infection by keeping multiple students from entering the dining hall. Those students entitled to a Universal and Free School Meal will receive these free of charge. Those families that usually pay will be expected to pay online (SCOPAY) as this will mean students not touching the biometric machines.

You may wish to send your child(ren) with their own packed lunch. Please advise them that this should not be shared with anyone. It is also advisable that children bring in their own drinks bottle (clearly labelled and filled) as we will turn off the water fountains. Please be reminded that fizzy or energy drinks are not allowed.

### **Support for students with SEND**

We will work with families and students to provide the best possible support for students with SEND and make reasonable adjustment as necessary to ensure the safety of students and staff. Should any parents and carers wish to discuss this in detail please contact either Ms Salisbury or Ms McPartland.

### **Cleaning Considerations & Movement around the site**

We have worked very closely with our maintenance provider to ensure regular cleaning has and will take place as it has done so far. We will ensure there is enough tissues, hand sanitiser and bins to keep everyone as safe as possible.

We have moved soft furnishings and certain toys out of classrooms; activities will be carefully planned to ensure regular cleaning of toys and books can be undertaken.

The doors on the wings will be 'wedged open' to ensure staff and students do not need to touch door handles and this will also allow for us to put in place a 'one way' system of movement around the wings.

### **Behaviour**

There are amendments and an addendum to the current Behaviour for Learning Policy, which can be found on our website. The guiding principles are, as usual, our REPS theme; where we expect students to be respectful, demonstrate excellence, persevere and be safe. Nevermore have these principles been more important. It is critical students co-operate with staff and follow instructions for the safety and well-being of everyone. Any behaviour that might put others in danger will not be tolerated and appropriate sanctions put in place.

### **First Aid & Medication**

Students that require first aid will still be able to access this and additional PPE will be provided to the designated first aiders. Students that need medication will still be able to collect this from student services.

**Please do not send your child(ren) into school if they feel unwell, are showing any one of the Covid-19 symptoms or require any general first aid.**

### **Pastoral Support for Well-Being and Mental Health**

We are very aware that the coronavirus outbreak may have caused significant mental health or wellbeing difficulties for some children. It is important to recognise that while 'getting back to normal' is important and will be reassuring for many, we will consider how to support students back into school.

We know some children may also have experienced bereavements in their immediate family or wider circle of friends or family or had increased/new caring responsibilities. All children will have missed the routine of school, seeing their friends, and being supported by their teachers and other adults in the school. Therefore, we will provide opportunities for children to talk about their experiences of the past few weeks. Opportunities for conversations with adults, some refocused lessons on relevant topics, for example, mental wellbeing or staying safe, pastoral activities, such as positive opportunities to renew and develop friendships and peer groups and other enriching developmental activities.

### **Home Learning**

Home learning for all other year groups will continue in the current format as previously set out in my letters. We are working with staff to look at how we can develop this further and hope to be able to provide some 'on-line' and 'live' teaching.

### **Key Worker Children**

Key Worker and vulnerable children will continue to be supported as they are currently. If we have several key worker children from one year group we may well set up class bubbles using the principles set out previously.



### **Visitors and Guidance on accessing the school Reception Desk**

There will be no parents and carers meetings on-site during this period and we will continue to limit the external visitors to the school during school hours.

Only one person at a time will be allowed into the main office/reception area to access the school's reception desk and signage will ensure this is clear to visitors. We have a duty to protect our staff and I appreciate your co-operation in this matter. There will clear markings on where to queue to access the office if this is necessary.

**Please note visitors or parents and carers will not be permitted to stand and wait in the 'foyer' between the plaza and the main entrance.**

As always, we will continue to use our social media and website to communicate any updates with you. These are listed below:

**Website:** [www.thegrangeacademy.co.uk](http://www.thegrangeacademy.co.uk)

**YouTube:** [grangeacademyruncorn](https://www.youtube.com/grangeacademyruncorn)

**Twitter:** [@Grange\\_School](https://twitter.com/Grange_School)

**Instagram:** [@thegrangeacademy](https://www.instagram.com/thegrangeacademy)

**Facebook:** [@grangeacademy](https://www.facebook.com/grangeacademy)

I hope this letter has served as an clear indication of what we will endeavour to put in place as control measures to minimise risks but this will not mean that risks can be removed altogether. However, it should be stressed again that children who are classed as clinically vulnerable, due to pre-existing medical conditions are not expected to return for the time being. Parents who decide not to send their child back to school until September will not receive any penalty or fine.

Finally, I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation.

Yours faithfully



Mr Ian Critchley  
Principal

### **Useful Links**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision>