



Northwood Broom Academy
ESPRIT Multi Academy Trust
Keelings Road, Northwood, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 6QA
Telephone: 01782 234379 Email: northwoodbroom@espritmat.org
Executive Principal & Safeguarding Officer: Mrs S Moran
Principal & Designated Child Protection Officer: Mrs Y Glaister



May, 2020

Our ref. YG.GA

Dear Parents and Carers

Following a number of queries from parents, I wanted to provide some clarification about the reopening of Northwood Broom Academy on 3rd June, 2020.

You will no doubt have heard the Prime Minister acknowledge on Sunday 24th May that schools will not all be in a position to open to additional pupils on 1st June, and that schools should only open when they are safe to do so, having put in all of the recommended measures to make the environment as safe as it can be for pupils, staff and the community.

We have meticulously completed a thorough risk assessment to set out the mitigating measures we can put in place to open Northwood Broom Academy to more pupils, and this was evaluated by Trustees on Friday 22nd May. The Trustees have concluded that:

“The concept of safety in the current circumstances is beyond the control of Teachers, Schools, Leaders and the Trust or Trustees. As we discussed, there are a wide range of behavioural and other factors beyond the control of the school that come into play. Yes, we can inform and even influence behaviour outside of school but we cannot control it or assure it. Social distancing is a difficult enough concept for adults to grasp; it must be wholly alien for young children.”

“The School is able to operate effectively with the proposed number of children for a limited period of time. The School has adopted and followed all of the specific schools related and general guidance issued by the Government and the DfE. All reasonable measures and mitigating actions have been put in place to ensure the safety of children, staff and visitors during this period. This will remain under continuous review with staff, leadership and Trustees. If during this period of operation there is an adverse change in the risks either at a local or national level then the Trust will place the safety of children and staff foremost in considering whether to close the School.”

You will be familiar with some of the challenges of our school environment – the majority of classrooms being small and leading off a long narrow corridor, with space for only 6 pupils to be safely spaced out, a limited number of toilets and a small kitchen.

Through your survey monkey responses, all of our places including the before and after school places, have now been allocated. We had a very high demand for childcare places from parents who consider themselves to be Critical Key Workers, as defined by DfE guidance, and therefore, have been unable to offer many additional places to nursery pupils, which are identified as a priority year group. I know that many parents are disappointed not to have been offered a place for their child, and I sympathise with the difficulties this can cause when being asked to return to work.



PLEASE UPDATE THE ACADEMY OFFICE IF YOUR CONTACT DETAILS CHANGE



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When we reopen on 3rd June, we will be rigorously monitoring that all measures on our 19-page risk assessment are in place successfully and we will endeavour to make any necessary amendments on a daily basis. If we find ourselves in a safe position to open to more pupils, we will communicate with parents again to ascertain demand. However, it is likely that any further places would need to be offered on a part-time basis.

We have received a great deal of messages of support from parents, and thanks for our work in these difficult times and I wish to thank you for this support. Our staff are desperate to see their pupils again, but I am sure that you will support us further in acknowledging that this can only happen with the strictest safety measures in place.

I can guarantee that we will be reviewing the situation daily and will act quickly if we feel that arrangements are not safe, or conversely that we can safely open to more pupils.

Thank you again for your anticipated understanding in these challenging times, take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Y Glaister
Academy Principal



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