

19 May 2020

Dear Families,

I am writing to update you on our educational approach during the Coronavirus pandemic. This follows the Government's announcement on 11 May 2020, which included how schools and colleges might, at the very earliest from 1 June, take a phased approach to bringing some of their pupils and learners back into their settings.

At The Rise, Year 10 and Year 6 pupils will be the first year groups who, with parental consent, will phase back to Learning from School – this is in line with their peers nationally. All other year groups will continue to Learn from Home at this time.

I have prepared a 15 minute video which explains our rationale in more detail:

<https://youtu.be/J-NOABiyWYA>

As an organisation, Ambitious about Autism has developed a set of principles to support our decision making:

- The safety of our pupils and staff is paramount
- The operation of our schools and college is dependent on our ability to keep them resourced and safe
- We have considered the maximum number of children, young people and staff we can have on site to allow for social distancing
- We are following Government guidance and keep our position under constant review
- Each child and young person has an individualised Covid-19 risk assessment, which is updated as needed
- Whilst social distancing is difficult for some of our children and young people to understand and practice, we will do all that is reasonably practicable to enable it
- We will also do what is reasonably practicable to support staff to socially distance within an education setting
- If a child or young person has a pre-existing medical condition that places them on the clinically extremely vulnerable list, they must remain at home. If a child or young

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person has a pre-existing medical condition that places them in the clinically vulnerable category and the local authority's risk assessment says they are safer in school or college, we will need medical evidence to confirm this

- We will work in partnership with placing local authorities and parents and carers on an ongoing basis.

These principles, and the full organisation position statement can be found on our website here: <http://www.theriseschool.com/families/latest-news/latest-information-for-families-regarding-coronavirus>

If you have any questions or queries, please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Ralston

Head of The Rise School