

Members of the Trust:

Angel Oak Academy
Applegarth Academy
Benedict Academy
Breakwater Academy
Burfield Academy
David Livingstone Academy

La Fontaine Academy
Gonville Academy
Hawkes Farm Academy
Heathfield Academy
High Cliff Academy
Park Academy

Phoenix Academy
Tudor Academy
Turnham Academy
Westbridge Academy
White House Academy

Gonville Road
Thornton Heath
Surrey CR7 6DL

Tel: 020 8684 4006

Email: info@stepacademytrust.org
Website: www.stepacademytrust.org

STEP CEO: Mr M Ducker OBE

STEP Deputy CEO: Mr P Glover

14 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will be aware that earlier this week, the Government announced the phased return of primary schools from 1st June. Whilst guidance has been provided, schools and trusts are ultimately responsible for determining what is right for their communities.

With this in mind, I am writing to share three core principles that will underpin our approach across STEP Academy Trust. Although the implementation of the phased return - beyond the provision for the children of key workers and targeted pupils - may differ from academy to academy, depending on the context, all STEP leaders will adhere to the following:

1. Safety

The safety of children and staff will be our top priority. Full and detailed risk assessments will be conducted before any decisions to expand provision are made. Scrutinised by the Executive Team, Academy Committees and the Board of Trustees, plans for any phased return will be extremely robust.

2. Community

The main purpose of expanding provision, within Government guidelines, is to further support the communities we serve. We do not underestimate the challenges our families face. For example, we recognise that for many parents, the reopening of schools will allow them to go back to work. STEP leaders will, therefore, consider how our academies can benefit and support those who need it most.

3. Choice

We respect that parents are best placed to determine whether their children come to school, if eligible, or continue learning at home. We understand that each child's family circumstance is different. For example, coming to school for some children may risk the health of another family member. Whilst being in school may be an option for certain year groups at given times, children will be encouraged to attend, *not* compelled. As such, our staff are committed to supporting the learning of all pupils, whether at school or at home.

Recognising that each STEP Academy's context is different, your academy's Headteacher will be in touch shortly to provide details on how the phased return will work. However, please be assured that the three principles, described above, will be guiding our STEP community moving forward.

Yours sincerely,



MR M DUCKER
CEO