



Message from Mrs Maria Hamblin, CEO of Fierte Multi-Academy Trust:

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As a result of the dip in transmission rates of coronavirus (COVID-19) schools are anticipating that they may be able, from the week commencing 1 June, to welcome back more children to early years, school and further education settings. This is provided that the 5 key tests set by government justify the changes at the time.

Our schools and childcare providers have already made comprehensive and thorough plan on this basis, and in accordance with government advice and guidance.

From the week commencing 1 June at the earliest, we will be asking primary schools to welcome back children in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6, alongside priority groups. The safety of children and staff is our utmost priority.

A range of approaches and actions will be employed to do this. These include:

- **minimising contact** with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges
- **cleaning hands more often than usual** - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- **ensuring good respiratory hygiene** by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- **cleaning frequently touched surfaces** often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach
- **minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment** (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times)

**Personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings and face masks:**

Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is *not recommended*. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings. **Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings.**

Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. Face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

The majority of staff in education settings *will not* require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way
- if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.

*As a Trust we do appreciate that there may be anxiety and concerns regarding a return to school settings. Although the guidance does not suggest a need for children or staff to wear PPE, we understand that for parents/carers in our schools, there may be added reassurance through being able to wear PPE. With this in mind, we ask that any parent/carer wishing for their child to wear PPE confirms this intention and sign consent that they accept that the Trust and individual members of staff at the school will accept no liability in this matter. Please sign and return the form:*

<p><b>Name of child and school:</b></p> <p><i>(Please print)</i></p>
<p><b>I have read and understood the guidance above; and the Trust and Localised School Risk Assessment:</b></p> <p><i>(Print name of Parent/ Carer)</i></p>
<p><b>Although not recommended, I wish to provide my child with PPE and take full responsibility for them wearing it; including the safe disposal/washing of any face covering which I will provide.</b></p> <p><i>(Parent/ Carer signature)</i></p>