



## Fern House School

May 2020

### Latest Government Guidance – Increasing Numbers at Fern House

Dear Parents

As we're sure you will appreciate, we are currently dealing with a complex and rapidly changing situation concerning the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Our first priority will always be the health and safety of the pupils and the staff in our school. This continues to remain our primary focus.

We've been keeping a very close eye on new guidance and have been following recommendations based on this, working closely with families and other professionals. I want to thank you for playing your part in that process.

The latest guidance published by the National Government is aimed at all schools, including mainstream schools, but the part we need to pay particular attention to is this section for special schools:

*Special schools, special post-16 institutions and hospital schools should work towards welcoming back as many children and young people as can be safely catered for in their setting. They may want to prioritise attendance based on key transitions and the impact on life chances and development, and to consider creating part-time attendance rotas so that as many children as possible can benefit from attending their setting. Special settings should work with local authorities and families to ensure that decisions about attendance are informed by existing risk assessments for their children and young people, which should be kept up to date.*

Based on this guidance, we are currently in the process of reviewing all pupil risk assessments to consider how this looks at Fern House School. We are planning for a staggered approach to increasing the number of pupils attending Fern House, an approach that ensures that all pupils and staff are kept as safe as possible. We will be in contact with you all after the half term break to discuss your child and individual circumstances so that we continue to work together to get this right. Your views and opinions are very important to us and we will be keen to seek your views on the plans we are making.

We also believe that it's incredibly important for us as a school for pupils with social, emotional, mental health needs that we implement a 'recovery curriculum' to provide bespoke support for our pupils following this life-changing event. Those who have lost family members or loved ones will need additional support on top of this and we want to be well informed prior to pupils returning to the on-site provision.

Thank you once again for your continued support and feedback.

Yours sincerely

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Head of School