

Cllr Abtisam Mohammed
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
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Web Site: www.sheffield.gov.uk



Dear parents and carers

Sheffield City Council would like to thank you for all that you are doing at this challenging time. Following last night's announcement from the Prime Minister, relating to the review of the current national lockdown arrangements; we have taken time to consider the Council's position. We stated previously that in order to support the increase of children in childcare and school settings, as a Council we need to be confident of our position against the Government's 5 tests outlined on the 19th April 2020.

The Director of Public Health has reviewed our position in relation to the Government's 5 tests and I have this morning written to Sheffield schools and childcare providers to ask them to delay increasing the number of children attending from 1st June, next week, and to wait until 15th June. In my statement to schools I have said:

"We have been advised by the Sheffield Director of Public Health, Greg Fell who has reviewed the local position and he does not feel assured that the recently announced NHS 'Test and Trace' programme will be sufficiently well established and robust enough to be in place for 1st June. He has advised that the NHS Test and Trace system should be in place and working effectively for 14 days before schools and nurseries begin increasing their numbers.

Whilst nationally the Government is requesting that schools and nurseries start to increase the number of pupils attending over the coming weeks, in light of the Sheffield Public Health advice **we do not yet feel assured** that it is the right time and are advising our schools and nurseries to delay increasing numbers until the **15th June 2020.**

We are acutely aware that many schools may have already put systems in place for increasing numbers of children prior to this date. However, our priority must always be ensuring the safety of our staff and the children is not compromised when the numbers are increased. All settings will continue to remain open for children of key workers and vulnerable children as they have been since the start of the national lockdown.

For maintained schools, where the Council is the employer, we are instructing schools not to increase the number of children attending more widely. For all other schools, academies, and nurseries in Sheffield, we are strongly advising that they also delay their wider reopening to the 15th June."

I wanted to share with you the advice that we have received from the Director of Public Health. Attached with this letter is a copy of the statement that has been sent to schools.

For those of you who have been sending your children to school already during the last two months, nothing will change and they can continue to attend. Schools may need to review their plans in light of the guidance that we have issued therefore if you have made a request

to school for a place for your child they may take time to come back to confirm this. As usual, please check with your child's school before sending your child in.

It is important that we continue to review progress towards meeting all of the government's five tests, locally before wider opening takes place and we prefer not to hinder that progress by increasing the numbers of children attending schools and childcare settings too soon. We will carefully keep this under review and we will let you know as soon as we feel confident that numbers can increase. Our overall priority is the health and wellbeing of our children and staff and we want to do all that we can to reduce the risk and further transmission of Covid-19 in the city.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abtisam Mohamed', written in a cursive style.

Cllr Abtisam Mohamed
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Sheffield City Council