



Parents and Carers

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SKILLS

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Our Ref. LR/cd

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Dear Parents and Carers

It was wonderful to see pupils returning to Solihull schools successfully last week. The hard work of schools and support services in the authority is paying off. The preparation which has gone into the reopening of our schools should not be underestimated. Detailed risk assessments, guidance and planning documents have been produced and put in place.

Headteachers from across the authority have reported huge delight at seeing their pupils again and hearing the sound of children in their schools. Children and young people seem delighted to be back with their friends and teachers, with education in Solihull schools starting again. We want to thank you as parents for how you have supported your child's school to successfully re-open and hope that your child settles back into school well.

As with any new arrangements it may take some time to fully implement them and some changes may be needed. One area a number of schools are continuing to look at is the drop off and pick up arrangements. All schools are trying to operate a system which works for them according to the logistics of their school site. This will be different for every school, but what we would continue to ask is that parents do not gather in groups on the school grounds or outside of school when dropping off or picking up their child.

Unfortunately there have been a number of incidents of this happening at schools across the borough last week. Of course the first few days were never going to go without a hitch, but now as we are all getting used to the new arrangements we urge you to continue to follow the protective measures your child's school is implementing. These may include:

- Not arriving at the school until your allotted time.
- Standing away from other parents in a safe place.
- Waiting until your child is released and ready to be collected.
- Following the systems the school has put in place to keep everyone safe.
- Maintaining social distancing outside of the school.
- Parking considerately and avoiding vehicle congestion near the school entrance

The latest figures show how the transmission rate is increasing and there is a growing number of positive cases in the authority. It is therefore imperative that we are all following the latest government guidance and continue to follow social distancing rules in our daily lives.

The safety of your child is the number one priority of schools, however it is increasingly difficult for school staff to supervise families outside of the school gate and this is where we need your support. The local authority and police will continue to do all we can to support your child's safe return to school. However, with many schools being in residential areas which can get congested, this can be difficult situation to manage. By working together, we will be able to overcome these issues for the safety of your child and the other children in school.

It will be some time before we return to what we once considered normal, so we will be working in these circumstances for the foreseeable future and we are keen to get it right. What we have learnt during the pandemic is that if we work together we can achieve so much more.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Louise Rees
**Director of Children's Services and Skills
Solihull MBC**

Angus McPherson

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**Solihull West Neighbourhood Inspector
West Midlands Police**