

12 June 2020

By Email

Head Teachers
Chairs of Governors



People Directorate

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My Ref CR/JS

Dear Headteacher and Chair of Governors

In the last week, Salford schools have received two communications from the city council and in addition, the government has made a further announcement concerning widening attendance in schools.

We realise that it has not been easy for headteachers and governing bodies to make sense of all the guidance that has been issued to schools over the weeks leading to the widening of attendance in schools and we would wish to clarify the council's position in this short joint communication.

In this last week, the first communication from Salford City Council was from the Director of Public Health (DPH). The DPH is a statutory role and professional accountability would be through the General Medical Council, the General Dental Council or the UK Public Health Register. This communication outlined the advice from Public Health following the 'R' number announcement for the North West on Friday 5th June.

The second communication was from Councillor John Merry. Councillor Merry is Lead Member for Children's and Young People's Services and a member of Salford City Council's political executive.

In addition to the two communications from the City Council, in the last week, the government announced that it would be unable to realise the intention that all children would be able to spend some time in school before the summer holiday, due to safe distancing and logistical concerns expressed by headteachers, governing bodies and trade unions.

In the light of the two city council communications and the government announcement, it is important we clarify Salford City Council's position on Salford schools and their risk assessments at this time.

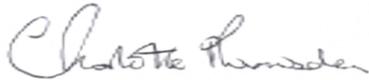
Whilst it is not the intention of Salford City Council to disrupt the education of children currently attending your school, the City Council recommended on Tuesday that Salford schools do not widen attendance further until at least the 22nd June to allow for the revisiting of the risk assessments to take place, following the announcement from Public Health England on Friday 5th June, regarding the 'R' number for the North West. We are aware that many of you have already done this with regard to your current attendance levels. In addition, if your revised risk assessment showed it would be dangerous to retain your current attendance levels, we would still support you to reduce them if necessary.

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In doing so, as mentioned in Cllr Merry's correspondence, the City Council recommends that schools utilise the risk assessment checklist developed by the Trade Unions, together with the risk assessment developed by Salford City Council and in consultation with colleagues, if not already done so. Taking into account the three communications it will be for the headteacher and the governing body in a school to determine the correct action based on individual school risk assessments.

We would like to thank you and everybody who supports your school for your hard work during these difficult and challenging times, especially all the work to support pupils and staff in our schools and outside of them, whilst also actively considering the risks and safety involved during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yours sincerely



Charlotte Ramsden
Strategic Director, People