

19 May 2020

Welsh Schools and Covid-19 Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your family are safe and healthy.

We would like to update you on the emerging plans with Welsh Schools and Covid-19.

We are being guided by Welsh Government, who launched on Friday their [Decision framework for the next phase of education and childcare](#)

The framework does not state any decisions yet, but rather outlines how Welsh Government are making decisions, and the wide range of options they are currently considering for how operations could be increased over time. They explain how they could prioritise different groups of children/learners at different key points, if required. This includes:

- **disadvantaged children/learners**
- **transition year groups** which they define as Class 5 and Class 11, but could also include Class 1 risers, Class 1 and Class 8
- learners at the end of a cycle - Class 10 and 11
- **all children/learners at a reduced time** - schools and providers would be open for all children/learners who would attend for a limited time, depending on maximum safe capacity: for example, one day a week. Staff would similarly rotate
- **earlier years** - earlier year groups would attend first
- **children of parent/carers who need to leave home to work** - focusing on children whose parents/carers are able to return to work through the easing of lockdown and parents/carers who need to work but have childcare commitments, in particular, single parents/carers
- **increase current provision for children of key workers** - to encourage more of those who are entitled to attend to do so

Possible models they suggest could include:

- **linear roll out of options** - adopt one of the options set out and then roll out to add or remove other options as capacity allows.
- **cycle of different options at different times** - adopt different options over time at different points, to support different groups of children/learners at key points. This would then expand/contract to combine options at any given point as capacity allows.
- **combination of options at reduced times** - combine different options above but at reduced time for each.

There is still no comment or assumption from Welsh Government regarding timescales, but they have said previously that “*Any decision to increase the operation of schools will be communicated well in advance*”, and elsewhere acknowledged that Schools would need three weeks’ notice of the next phase.

We are currently looking at all the different options Welsh Government are considering, as part of our comprehensive planning and modelling as guidance develops. While Welsh Government’s guidance and advice will be of primary significance we would be happy to receive any feedback that parents would like to share with us to have taken into account in our ongoing decision making. If you would like to do so please email this to parents@cardiffsteiner.org.uk

In the meantime we continue to strengthen our ‘Beyond the Classroom’ distance learning programme, with feedback from parents and pupils, so we can continue to provide education, academic, social and emotional support.

We are also running our small, necessary provision for our pupils who are vulnerable or are children of parents of ‘essential workers’ – those whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response.

We will keep you updated of further developments following future Welsh Government announcements.

With thanks for your continued support.

Three handwritten signatures in black ink are displayed horizontally. From left to right, they appear to be 'Anna', 'Miranda', and 'Brigid'. The signatures are fluid and cursive.

Anna Podesta, Miranda Knight, Brigid Bowen
for College, the School Management Team and Trustees