

FAQ

Why aren't Year 6 pupils going back yet?

The answer will be different for every school. At our school it is to do with the priority order of different groups of children (and parents) and the make-up of the parent body.

With 16 classrooms, and no other usable spaces for groups, and a limit on group size of 15 pupils, we can only provide 240 places at most. That would require all our staff to be available and give no capacity for extra support for children not in school.

As we have 270 pupils who are 'children of critical workers' all those 240 places and more could be occupied by just COCW. The national guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision> says we should place COCW first and not use rotas for any children.

'Any settings that cannot achieve these increases at any point because:

- there are not enough classrooms or spaces available in the setting*
- they do not have enough available teachers or staff to supervise the groups*

have flexibility but must first focus on continuing to provide places for priority groups (vulnerable children and the children of critical workers).'

Put simply, we do not have room for all the COCW, never mind the additional 60 or so Year 6 pupils. If all the parents who are critical workers wanted their child in our school now we would have to prevent at least 30, and most likely up to 130, from attending based on our Risk Assessment of safe capacity due to coronavirus restrictions and precautions.