



Reaching for the Stars !

5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers ,

RE: ALLOCATION OF SCHOOL PLACES

I can only apologise for the effects of the chaos following recent government announcements and would ask for your patience as School tries to steer a way through the ' choppy seas ' ahead.

The whole drive of the fight against this latest variant of Covid19 is to stop the spread of the virus by taking drastic action - so it is a very serious situation we find ourselves in. The government has said that we should close school but we are not closed , we are partially opened. We must significantly reduce the numbers of children and adults coming through the gates and staying on site otherwise what is the point of closure ?

What we have been asked to do is an impossible task as we have to prioritise each child's place on a case by case basis. There are limited places available so the vast majority of parents will be disappointed about not receiving a school place and having to access on-line learning.

We are using some criteria to inform our decisions and it is by no means perfect. We will also award places to children for confidential reasons. For these reasons we cannot get into prolonged discussions about individual cases. All we can do is ask you to document, evidence and present your case in writing (keyworker@davyhulmeprimary.com) so we have it on record and can refer to it quickly should a place become available.

The 'criteria ' for making such decisions is based on a number of factors which have been widely explained across the nation in a variety of media forms; But for us in the context of Davyhulme we have used the following :

- Government Criteria - Keyworkers and Vulnerable pupils.
- Advice from Trafford
- Union Advice
- School Criteria on pupils WE believe to be vulnerable (even if they have not got a social worker).
- Confidential information on pupils and families who School believes present a strong case for a place.

We are desperately trying to accommodate most Key Worker requests and all of our vulnerable pupils but when we have reached our capacity we will simply not be able to fit anymore children into a Learning Bubble (of 12 pupils per cohort approx) safely. We can not enter into a case by case discussion with parents over criteria as there are so many variables. Suffice to say that if we have two pupils with exactly the same profile and they tick every 'criteria box ' then we would still have to choose between the two, with one pupil being admitted and the other not being admitted - the alternative choice to be fair would be not to admit either of them.

The only thing we can do for now is to apologise to you , thank you for your patience and ask you to ensure that your contact details are up to date because if you have applied for a KW place (and you are unsuccessful) then your child will be placed on a waiting list and we might need to get in touch with you at short notice to offer you a place.

Our staff are still working on ways to accommodate further **Learning Bubbles once it is safe to do so.**

My staff and I feel like the crew on the Titanic , deciding who gets a place on the lifeboats and who does not ! Basically not a good place to be...

Yours sincerely ,

Mr P McDowell
Head Teacher