This is my position statement with Governors.

I believe re-opening under the current conditions and following guidelines by Welsh Government is extraordinarily difficult, due to the nature of the school building, staff challenges and of course maintaining strict safety procedures.

Whilst we may see benefit in opening, this must be considered against what we may lose. First and foremost, it is important that both pupils and staff remain safe in any model we utilize, currently the safest place for staff and pupils would seem to be at home (indeed lots of parents of vulnerable pupils have politely said they will not send children this academic year) . Secondly, the goodwill and wellbeing of all staff is crucial. I am confident our ever developing approaches to distance learning continue to support our pupils and many staff are maintaining this whilst having their own challenges of home learning or looking after loved ones. Additionally, a number of staff have ensured the building has remained safe and maintained during lockdown and continue to do so.

I believe there are diminishing returns if we open the school too quickly or with too many pupils. What extra benefit is there in more time in school? There will be very little if any formal teaching. It would be impossible to get sufficient teachers in place in front of small classes in this building to be worthwhile with-out potential health risks and destabilizing our distance learning approach.