

Date: 19th March 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

The Government announced yesterday that schools are to close. We are therefore taking the decision to close all our Trust Schools from Monday 23rd March 2020 until further notice.

We have been planning for this eventuality for some time and have put in place measures to support your son/daughter in studying at home. These include:

- On-line platforms for learning
- Packs of work sent home for pupils
- Uploaded work available on school websites
- Regular contact with the families that need us the most
- A helpline available between 12pm to 3pm, Monday to Friday. Our pupils and parents can call the normal school number in order to speak to a designated safeguarding lead from their schools if they need help with emotional health and well being

Each school will send out more information tomorrow about how we would like your son/daughter to engage in this and will continue to keep our websites up-to-date with information.

Regular assessments such as Key Stage 2 SATs and GCSEs will not take place this year. This will come as a great shock to our pupils and parents, especially those that have been preparing for their GCSEs. More information will be forthcoming over the next few days and weeks, but please be assured that our staff are fully committed to ensuring that your children get the recognition and qualifications that they deserve.

As I am sure that you are aware, our schools are asked to remain open for the children of key workers. Our one aim is to support the country in its quest to enable key workers to cope with what is ahead and we are committed to rising to the occasion in order to do so. The Government are yet to confirm who these key workers are, but they will include NHS workers, police officers, supermarket delivery drivers and workers who look after the vulnerable and elderly in a professional capacity. Please note that it may be a government requirement that both parents have to be in key worker roles. If you feel that one of these categories applies, and you would like your child to remain at school during this closure, please complete the form detailed overleaf. Our schools will also offer provision to pupils who have an Education and Health Care Plan and any child who has a social worker assigned. Individual schools will be sending out details of how this will work in your child's setting.

In order to ensure that we fully safeguard children we will need to know in advance whether you wish to take up this provision and would expect your child to attend every day, all day unless they

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become ill or you wish to cease this service. In either of these cases, we would expect you to contact the school.

We are awaiting guidance from the Government, but please rest assured that there will be provision made for families eligible for free school meals. We will inform you of how this will work as soon as we can.

Catering facilities will not be available for those pupils on site, but provisions will be in place for those in receipt of free school meals. We will not expect pupils to attend in full school uniform, but secondary pupils will need to wear their lanyards. We will expect all pupils to continue to follow the behaviour expectations of the school.

If you are a key worker and intend to send your child to school throughout the closure, please complete the online form here: <https://bit.ly/2UkRkX3>. The deadline to complete this form is 9am Friday 20th March 2020.

Again, we would like to thank you for your patience and continuing support. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Robson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Carolyn Robson

Chief Executive Officer