

30.03.2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that this finds you all still in continued good health. I would like to thank you for the ongoing support during this period of uncertainty. We are all having to adjust to a very different way of life at the moment causing additional challenge for both adults and children alike. It has been lovely to see so many of our young people engaging with the activities and ideas being shared. We also recognise that adjusting to a new routine has also been challenging.

As we continue to navigate this difficult journey, we have been unpicking all the latest guidance. In particular, the Government guidance on Educational Provision for Vulnerable Pupils. The Government advice asks schools to undertake a risk assessment to decide whether an individual pupil with an EHC plan can have their needs met safely in the school, with the staff available and the need for social distancing between students.

The principle is clear, that for the vast majority of our children, it is safer for them to stay at home, being at school should be the last resort. Limiting the number of children in school will help us limit the transmission of the virus.

In the last 2 weeks we have undertaken a full assessment of every child's need in collaboration with the school nursing team. Considering their additional educational needs, health needs, social care and environmental factors that impact on their vulnerabilities. We know that some of our pupils:

- have significant underlying health needs, such as respiratory conditions for whom the virus presents a life-threatening risk
- they may not be able to adopt self-care hygiene and social distancing strategies as defined by Public Health England.
- they may need 'hand-to-hand' contact to access provision or require intimate care. A key risk is that staff could, unwittingly, pass on the virus because of the close physical proximity that is necessary with that child.

Our overarching principle is to preserve life, reduce transmission of the virus by reducing the amount of social contact people have and minimise risks to our staff and their families, whilst ensuring our most vulnerable are kept safe.

Therefore, as of today, Monday 30th March, we will provide provision for a maximum of 10 pupils. We are providing childcare from 10am - 2pm on our Kingsland site. Schools are tasked with prioritising in line with their own capacity. We have prioritised places in the following order:

1. Pupils of Critical Workers (NHS staff, Police, Firefighters)
2. Those that are vulnerable from a safeguarding perspective, where there is no alternative and therefore safer at school

We have contacted all the families that fit our criteria at this time. We will review the 2nd category daily.

We have put together a rotation of skeleton staff, over a 6-week period, to include the Easter holidays. Staff will include, 1 member of SLT, a Pathway Lead, 2 teachers and 6 Learning Support Assistants.

We are currently suggesting parents provide transport themselves as this minimises the risk of social contact, however, we can work with SEND Transport if this proves difficult.

Pupils should not attend in their school uniform and we will also be providing lunch.

It is important to recognise, provision will look very different to a normal school day, we have limited access to many areas of the school and given the shortage of staff, your child may not know the staff they are with but we will endeavour to ensure staff have as much information as possible about your child's needs.

We are currently working on providing a more virtual platform for coming together as a school community, once we have finalised what this looks like, I will share this with you.

I would like to thank you again for all your kind messages.

Kind regards

Lisa