

18th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I do not normally contact you directly as your school's Headteacher/Principal is your key point of contact when it comes to the education and safeguarding of your children. However in this unusual time, when the threat and impact of the Coronavirus is widespread across every part of our community, I wanted to reassure you directly that we are doing everything we can as a Trust and as a family of schools to keep your children safe.

As a Trust, all of our schools are following the most up to date guidance from the Government, from the Department for Education and from Public Health England. We follow this advice because whilst we have considerable leadership expertise in managing schools; we are not medical experts.

The advice currently is that schools should remain open and our Heads and our school and Trust staff are working incredibly hard to make this happen. We are endeavouring to ensure that your children receive all the education experiences and teaching we can possibly deliver. We are cancelling some international and domestic trips in line with Government travel advice and are risk assessing all extra-curricular activity. We have already provided advice to you and your pupils on the importance of personal hygiene and what measures you can take to help us remain open. We very much appreciate all the support and efforts of our parents, pupils and staff in pulling together during this challenging time and we would ask all parents continue to send their children to school as long as they remain well and are not showing symptoms.

There are likely to be even more challenging times ahead and the advice to stay open may change at some point or staff illness may lead us to consider options like partial closure. We will endeavour to keep school open for as long as possible especially for those pupils with very important exams or statutory tests looming. This approach may vary from school to school however you can be assured no decision to close will be taken lightly and will only be based on the advice of Government and the practicalities of keeping children safe. What I can also assure you is that every school in BDAT will do their very best to support the children and young people they serve.

I know this will be a worrying time for you and your family and your anxieties will be shared by many of our staff who are supporting your children in our schools. Once again I can only thank all of you – our parents, carers, pupils and our staff in the extra efforts you are making in the interest of our children's education at this time.



Carol Dewhurst
CEO
Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust