



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Opening TCLT schools during the Coronavirus Outbreak**

We have received further clarification from HM government on the provision of care during the coronavirus outbreak. Yesterday we began to ask you to self-identify if your child would be eligible but I would like to draw your attention to the first part of the guidance stating that **if it is at all possible for your child to be at home then they should be.**

Guidance goes on to state that your child will be **prioritised** for provision if your work is critical to the COVID-19 response or you work in one of the critical sectors, and **you cannot keep your child safe at home.**

The guidance for parents can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Today I am asking Headteachers and school staff to consider the lists we assembled yesterday and ensure that the children on the list have to be in school, as there is no alternative care for them at home, or they are considered vulnerable and will be better supported by attending school.

**There is no requirement for you to send your child to school, even if they would be eligible.**

For those of you that have already identified yourselves we will contact you today, either by phone or email to discuss needs and requirements given the updated guidance that was issued last night, but would remind you that **the position of HM Government is that as few children as possible should be in school and only if your child would not be safe at home.** Please remember that we are also working without key staff who are ill, vulnerable or self-isolating. Students who do come into school will be supervised whilst completing their Google Classroom work as they would have done if they were at home.

Your child is likely to attend their own school initially but this may change. I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that this will not be a normal school day – we will be providing **care** to allow essential workers to continue to go to work.

The purpose of the school closures is to allow social distancing measures to be implemented so please help us by taking up a place in school, only if your child cannot be cared for safely at home. Schools will essentially be closed to all but a very **small** number of pupils.

Thank you for your patience. This is a fast-changing situation and we are responding to events as best we can.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alice A. Witherow".

**Alice Witherow**  
**Chief Executive Officer**