

6 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I write as we enter the latest phase of our governments' attempts to manage the spread of the COVID-19 virus: new national measures. These measures will affect all our daily lives and are set to be in place until at least 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

As you will know the government has been very clear in stating that schools will remain open. The rationale for this is drawn from the experience worldwide of infection rates amongst children. I am certain that concerns amongst parents are as widespread as is support for the measure. I wrote to you in September to explain our approach:

- We will make every effort possible to keep our schools/ Academies open fully where it is safe to do so and where there is no jeopardy to the welfare of pupils and staff.
- Where full opening is not possible for reasons described above, we will make every effort to maintain the fullest partial provision we can where it is safe to do so and where there is no jeopardy to the welfare of pupils and staff.
- Where there are insufficient staff available or were there a substantial threat to safety and welfare, the Trust in consultation with the leadership team will make the decision to close the school/ Academy for a set minimum period, effect the necessary safety and organisational measures and then reopen.

Our approach remains the same. By definition, if school is open we deem it safe enough to be so for our young people and staff. Our primary duty is our Health and Safety duty of care. As an employer, the Trust has a duty of care to its workforce, as it does to the young people in their care.

Please continue to support your school in the way you have. No decisions in regard to COVID-19 are easy or are made lightly. The situation can change rapidly where cases are suspected or confirmed.

We will see Christmas and the New Year out with COVID-19 a factor in our lives. We are likely to see at least an entire year of COVID-19, through to March 2021. Learning in schools has been disrupted during that time. Many lives, industries and ways of life have changed completely. Ongoing disruption remains likely. It is important that you bear with us as we continue to do our best in these unpredictable times.

Both your school and the Trust will continue to communicate with you to keep you as up to date as we can with the situation as it continues to unfold.

Kind regards,



Mark Wilson  
CEO Wellspring Academy Trust