

Corporate Services
Head Office
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Date: Tuesday 12th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Changes to onsite provision from Monday 18th January 2021

As you know, guidance around the impact of the virus is ever changing. Over the weekend, the govt released further guidance for schools entitled "[Restricting attendance during the national lockdown](#)"

It states that this guidance will be regularly reviewed and will expire when schools are no longer asked to limit attendance. It is quite a comprehensive document, so please follow the hyperlink at your convenience.

In addition to this, the key message that we will all have picked up over the last few days has been around the number of people "not complying" with the national lockdown as it seems footfall this time around, compared to last March has increased significantly. This of course can be attributed to the mixed messages around schools being closed yet welcoming all that need to attend.

One message from the guidance that we as a leadership team strongly agree with is the one below;

*"Limiting attendance does not suggest that schools and colleges have become significantly less safe for young people. Instead limiting attendance is about supporting the reduction of the overall number of social contacts in our communities. We have resisted restrictions on attendance at schools since the first lockdown but, in the face of the rapidly rising numbers of cases across the country and intense pressure on the NHS, we now need to use every lever at our disposal to **reduce all our social contacts wherever possible**"*

Last week I wrote to you all detailing the guidance around special schools remaining open to all vulnerable children and children of critical workers.

Our stance regarding young people with EHCPs and others classified as vulnerable is that the vast majority would be absolutely safe in the loving care of their family homes and should be adhering to the guidance around social isolation for not only their own wellbeing but that of their wider family groups. This has been the case and we have seen very little take up of provision over the past couple of days.

We will, however, continue to stay open to offer care to young people identified to be safer at school, and to children of critical workers. For this reason and to support the community at this difficult time, we will have a skeleton staff at only one of our centrally located sites.

We aim to provide this care between the hours of 8.30am– 3.00pm at our **Parkway (KS4 Centre), Bell Barn Road, B15 2AF.**

This offer will be a different provision to a normal school day. Children might be in mixed age groups and supervised by members of staff from across the academy. Whilst we can't guarantee that your child will necessarily always be familiar with all members of staff, we can confirm that staff utilised will be staff employed by the academy and therefore meet our safer recruitment guidelines in line with our statutory safeguarding duty.

The staff on duty will support the young people in accessing their live online lessons which will be delivered by their normal teachers. Non-teaching staff will offer other activities as appropriate, and there will always be a Designated Safeguarding Lead present. Our normal Safeguarding and Behaviour Policies will apply.

Transport/Travel arrangements

Once we are clear on the number of pupils attending, we will clarify how pupils will be transported to and from Parkway. If your child is normally transported via taxi service, this will continue. If you would prefer to drop off and collect your child, this is also an option. Please speak with your child's key worker regarding this.

Additional measures to maintain health & safety

To support maintaining the health & safety of all staff and pupils accessing Parkway, bi-weekly lateral flow testing will be available for all staff and pupils should they wish to be tested.

This, in addition to the other procedures in place such as enhanced cleaning regimes, social and physical distancing within bubbles, and the availability of PPE for all staff, should hopefully address any questions you might have around the measures in place.

If you would like your child to access a lateral flow test whilst at school, please complete the consent form attached and return to your child's Centre. I have also included some additional information regarding the tests for your information.

Finally, as per the advice from Public Health England, if your child or a family member has a high temperature (37.8), a new persistent cough or a symptom of the coronavirus, they will need to remain at home. We will also ensure staff do not come in to work showing any symptoms.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Tosin Gabriel
Vice Principal – Head of Parkway, Northfield and Dovedale Centres

Centre Leader contact details

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