



17 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Further to my letter last Friday, I am writing to keep you updated of GLF Schools' support to our schools in the light of the changes to government advice announced yesterday evening.

We continue to be guided by the health professionals who are best placed to advise the government. We take into account the advice from Public Health England (PHE) and the latest isolation guidance is:

- Anyone with symptoms consistent with Coronavirus (a new continuous cough and/or fever) should still isolate for 7 days from when the symptoms first appeared
- Anyone living with someone who has symptoms and is isolating as above, should themselves isolate for 14 days (even if they do not have symptoms)
- Anyone who is pregnant or who has an underlying health condition that puts them at greater risk should stay at home and practise strict social distancing
- Everyone should stop all non-essential contact with others and all unnecessary travel

I appreciate that there is concern that schools, including those within the GLF Trust, remain open, but this is the case nationally. The government funds state schools, including academies, and it wishes for schools to remain open in order to help the rest of society continue for as long as possible, for instance, to keep children safe whilst their families work.

We may have to close eventually but, at present, the government's approach is to buy time, especially for key workers such as those working for, or in partnership with, the NHS.

Last night's updated guidance may cause our schools to move from being fully open to being partially open, to eventually not having sufficient staff to ensure your child's safety. This will, therefore, lead to complete school closure. We are in contact with all heads daily but the final decision whether to close will rest with them. Please make sure that you keep in touch with the school's website and other social media channels for the latest information.

I recommend that all families plan for their children not being able to attend school after the end of this week in light of the fast-changing nature of government and PHE advice. Schools *may* be open or partially open next week, but it is best to prepare for closure, just in case.

As I mentioned last Friday, please address any concerns to your child's school rather than utilise social media channels to express views which cannot be retracted once you have received clarification from someone at the school.

We would also ask for your understanding that responses to parental enquiries may take longer than usual given the current difficult circumstances.

In closing, I would like to thank all colleagues in our schools and across the trust who are providing our children and young people with stability at such a challenging time for us all.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jon Chaloner', written in a cursive style.

Jon Chaloner
CEO, GLF Schools