

Dear Parents/carer's

I just wanted to get in touch to say a massive thank you for all the hard work you continue to do keeping your children safe, happy and well. You're all all doing an incredible job throughout these challenging times I also just wanted to update you all on how we are currently working to support everyone connected with Hope School, College and Post 19 provisions.

As you may be aware we have been open for pupils of both key worker and those families who have needed that little extra support through these past weeks. Following Government, Local Authority and Public Health England guidelines we have catered for between 20 and 35 pupils in total in the best way we possibly can. We have all seen and heard the passionate discussions by all parties, friends and relatives as to whether to introduce larger numbers of children back into school and I can imagine how difficult it is for you all being bombarded with everyone's point of view and opinions. The decision is yours and we will support you with whatever you decide.

In moving forward with the Governments current decision, it is imperative that as a school, college and provision we continue to implement strategies and procedures that always address the safety of our children and staff as their health and safety remains paramount to any final actions and decisions taken by the school, college and Post 19 provisions.

All of our children have some level of additional needs and the current situation of lockdown is very hard for them to understand and tolerate. Our children do not cope with change well and most are comforted with familiar routine and familiar adults in their home and school life. Currently they cannot have their normal routine and whilst initially this seemed manageable it is now clear that the children are struggling with not being able to have some normality in their lives.

It is absolutely true that the majority of our children are unable to maintain the recommended social distancing guidance and that as nurturing adults it is very hard for us not to comfort a distressed child or to physically intervene to support emotionally if it is necessary. Therefore, whilst we will adhere to these guidelines as best we can we do not want to jeopardise any additional confusion and distress to the very people we care about so each case and each group, as always will be addressed on an individual basis with care, compassion, respect and dignity.

The guidance from Government is plentiful and is sometimes released many times in a day. It is constantly updated and reviewed. As a provision we are continually soaking up documentation, guidelines, advice and comments from all sources and reviewing and tweaking our routines and support for everyone across our buildings.

Public Health are available to consult with on any issues for school and we are in contact with the Local Authority when necessary.

As an overview this is how we are currently operating across school and college but please ask if you need further information

- School staff to collect / drop off children from their own 'bubble' . Vehicles to unload one at a time.
 - Early Years at Early Years entrance
 - Primary at Primary dining hall entrance
 - Seniors at main entrance and through main hall
 - College at College Entrance
 - PMLD: PMLD main entrance
 - The Grange: The Grange Entrance
 - The Hamlet: The Hamlet drop off area

- Minimise movement through school specified areas.- No movement across departments as corridor areas cordoned off
- Small groups work in 'bubbles' Staff timetabled on a rota basis throughout the week to minimise the number of bodies in each bubble. There will always be the appropriate staffing in each bubble to address, support and supervise the groups safely
- No movement between 'bubbles'
- Everyone to wash and sanitise hands on arrival and to wash hands on a regular basis i.e. changing room / before and after eating / after use of limited resourced areas
- PPE equipment available, as appropriate to all staff
- Frequent cleaning of all touch surfaces on a regular basis within class and on exiting resourced areas - specialist areas busybodies / IT / Hall etc will need to be timetabled
 - If appropriate open a window for ventilation
 - All staff adhering to social distancing rules throughout school, in the staffroom and talking to each other
 - If passing on the corridor, staff and pupil will stand back to allow others to pass safely
 - As always, the cleaning staff are always vigilant and will continue to be so and work tirelessly both early morning and after school to maintain a clean and safe environment for us all.

I cannot whole heartedly promise you that there are no risks in returning to school yet I cannot promise you either that there would be no risks in crossing a road or slipping on a mopped floor at home but, what I can say is that I and the dedicated team of staff who are part of the whole Hope provision will promise to continue as we always do to take the best care we possibly can in keeping your children safe, secure and happy and continue to nurture, support and 'love' all your children as I would my own.

If you would like to chat further about this with me then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Take care and love and best wishes to you and your families

Sue Lucas