



Thursday June 25th 2020

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the Trust and academy I wanted to simply thank you all for your support, encouragement, co-operation and praise that you have given the Principal and staff at the academies during this very difficult time.

Academies across the Trust have received letters, emails, videos and phone calls from many parents all thanking and congratulating the Principals and staff for the level and quality of support that they have provided. Ofsted contacted the Trust as two parents had contacted Ofsted to draw attention to the work of the staff working with their children.

All academies across the Trust have remained open throughout the lockdown; initially providing for key workers and vulnerable families and children as well as providing a variety of age appropriate home learning opportunities for children and their families.

Members of staff have gone the extra mile to support children; facing challenges every day and putting themselves on the front line. I have nothing but admiration for them all and so pleased to see the media acknowledging the role of staff in schools and the way in which they have stepped up to the present challenges.

However as parents; praise where praise is due!

You have:

- been understanding and patient;
- you have spent valuable time with your children and supported them with home learning;
- you have recognised and acknowledged the challenges schools are facing and their role in supporting a 'reset' position to the 'new normal' that we are all so looking forward to;
- you have shown gratitude and thanks and gone out of your way to share that with staff and beyond.

We have all worked together in partnership so well for the sake of our children and we must be very proud of that! We are already waiting for guidance for the September plans and arrangements so we can do everything possible to ensure as many children return to school for as much time as possible – looking to secure the norm as quickly and safely as possible!

You will now be aware of the government's announcement to relax some of the restrictions currently in place; these include pubs, restaurants, hotels and hairdressers re-opening. That being said, with the conditions put in place for these places to re-open for business, we have been clearly told that the 2 metre social distancing should remain.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson stated: "Where it is possible to keep 2 metres apart people should" and that should there be the need these new steps being introduced could be reversed because we do not want "the virus to take advantage of our carelessness"



For the academy the 2 metre social distancing will remain as government guidance dictates. Provision in school is also determined by the ability to provide:

- a one way system within schools and if not a system which provides routes to avoid congestion;
- the number of children taking a break or lunch break with sufficient space, support and supervision;
- the position , proximity and number of toilets available in relation to the number of children in school and how accessible they are;
- the fluctuation in numbers of children currently in school with the designated year groups and the key worker/ vulnerable group which is growing as more businesses re-open.

Paying due regard and attention to government guidance and robust risk assessment Principals have made local decisions at a local level. Our academies are different shapes and sizes and serve a variety of communities, all with different needs and we ask parents to continue to work with us understanding that schools are doing everything they are being asked to do.

The health and safety of your children and our staff is of paramount importance and continually at the forefront of our thinking. Regular collaboration with local authorities, the department of education and trade unions ensures that we are making the appropriate measures, adhering to the government's guidance, never compromising the well-being of our children and staff

You would expect nothing less.

Thank you for your continued support.

Stay safe and take care

Best Wishes,

Sue Wedgwood
CEO St Chad's Academies Trust