



The Consortium Trust

Where together excellence and pupils thrive

Covid-19 update for Parents and Carers

1st June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

You will have seen the Prime Minister's announcement last week that there will be further easements to the lockdown, including the now confirmed government position that schools will extend the provision to include pupils in nursery, reception, years 1 and 6 from the 1st June, at the earliest. This is in addition to the current provision for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers.

The Trust Board has met to discuss the extension of provision, and reviewed all the information available to them including the national picture, staff returns, anticipated pupil numbers and the plans and risk assessments from Academy Heads. It was the Trust Board's view that we are ready to extend provision and have approved the plans from Academy Heads and myself.

We are therefore pleased to confirm that all eleven schools will be open to core pupils from Tuesday 2nd June.

Academy Heads will advise you of specific arrangements for your school site but the basic principles are:

- Pupil places are limited and children must be pre-registered to secure a place;
- Pupils will work, play and eat within contained 'bubbles' of a maximum of 15 children;
- Staff may be different to the pre-covid-19 arrangements for your child;
- **Do not** attend school if your child or anyone in your household is displaying covid-19 symptoms;
- A fresh set of clothing should be worn every day;
- Do not bring in bags, books, personal items, lunch boxes etc;
- School lunch provision will be available, initially cold option (home prepared packed lunches can be brought in a disposable / plastic bag);
- Parents, carers and visitors are not permitted in the school building;
- Telephone appointments may be made with the Academy Head or a member of the teaching team by calling the school office;
- Please observe social distancing and other PHE advice at all times.

Virtual School, part of our offer going forward will be the opening of the Consortium Trust's Virtual School, this provision will provide learning opportunities and resources for all our pupils that are unable to attend our school sites. This will replace our existing google-classroom offer you will receive information in the next few days about this provision. The Virtual school will be headed up by Tamsin Little, Director of Primary Education and she has built a team of virtually available teachers and teaching assistants.

Our focus on our collection safety, the safety of everyone is fundamental to us moving forward to extend our physical provision to more children, I can confirm the following:

1. Full risk assessments have been undertaken at every site and the Academy Head has confirmed they are content to open their schools, I have requested for these documents to be available should you wish to view them. Risk Assessments will be uploaded to school websites and reviewed regularly.
2. PPE equipment have been sourced and is in place at all sites. PPE equipment is available and must be used in line with the DfE guidance (staff will not be wearing PPE for general engagement activities)

Registered in England and Wales, Private Limited Company by guarantee, without share capital. Company number: 10255142.

Registered office address: 27 Norwich Road, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 8BX.

www.consortiumacademy.org. Tel.No: 01986 835670. Email: businesssupport@consortiumacademy.org

Principal & CEO: Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne. Email: principal@consortiumacademy.org



The Consortium Trust

Where together excellence and pupils thrive

3. Additional cleaning measures are in place and we are working with our contractor and estates team to ensure our sites are as safe as possible and clean for our pupils and staff.
4. Addendums to several key policies have been made these are available on the Trust and school websites. The attached addendum to the Behaviour and Inclusion policy make it clear that pupils that are unable or unwilling to comply with the social distancing rules will be refused entry to the school. I have not taken this decision lightly and I understand that this could have a negative impact on a few pupils and families. But, in the current circumstances I feel that it is the correct course of action to keep everyone as safe as possible. School staff will of course support children to understand the importance of social distancing rules and will discuss with you any issues that arise – before an action is undertaken.

Please refer to the national guidance documents below, for further information

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

Guidance on implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

Guidance for parents and carers as schools and other education settings in England open to more children and young people can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Yours sincerely

Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne
CEO & Principal

Cc: Trust Board and Members–
Locality Committee members



The Consortium Trust

Where together excellence and pupils thrive

Behaviour and Inclusion Policy Addendum

COVID-19 response

1. The following addendum to the Trust's Behaviour and Inclusion Policy will come into force on the 1st June 2020 and will remain in place until the end of the Covid-19 pandemic or when revoked by the Trust Board (whenever soonest).
2. The addendum will be reviewed by the CEO and the Executive Team routinely and will make recommendations to retain or revoke based on the evidence and need in our schools.
3. The health, safety and well-being of all our pupils, families and staff is our highest priority and the Trust reserves the right to balance the needs of the individual and the school community.
4. The Trust reaffirms its commitment to inclusion and safeguarding for all pupils.
5. The Trust and our schools have undertaken detailed risk assessments on the re-opening our schools to more pupils, from the 1st June 2020 *at the earliest*.
6. A decision to apply the sanctions as laid out in this addendum is delegated to the Academy Head in consultation with the Director of Primary Education.
7. A decision to apply the sanctions as laid out in this addendum must be supported by a detailed assessment of risk, undertaken by the Academy Head to show that all steps have been considered and that the risk to the individual, other pupils and staff cannot be managed effectively to an acceptable level.
8. **Any pupil who commits serious or persistent breach of the new COVID-19 protection rules may be sanctioned by the Academy Head using the full range of sanctions available, dependent on the seriousness of the breach, up to and including withdrawal of the offer of a place at the school for a specified period and in extreme cases permanent exclusion.**
9. A serious or persistent breach of the new COVID-19 rules may include, but not limited to:
 - Failing to comply with social distancing;
 - Failing to comply with hand-washing and hygiene requirement;
 - Failing to observe all reasonable instructions from staff;
10. In the event of a pupil having a physical school place withdrawn or a fixed-term or permanent exclusion the pupil will be auto-enrolled in the Trust's Virtual School until a time where the pupil can return to school, the Trust Board revokes this addendum, or the COVID-19 response is no longer required as directed by the Government.

Addendum Author: Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne, CEO/Principal. 21st May 2020

Agreed by special resolution: Trust Board Meeting, 28th May 2020