

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you how Wellsway Multi Academy Trust will respond to the government's announcement on school closures.

You will be aware I'm sure that the government has announced that schools will close on Friday afternoon (20-3-20) until further notice, for all children, with the exception of the children of key workers and vulnerable children (defined as those with a social worker or Education Health Care Plan). The list of key workers is being published today and we will share that with you. Each school will be contacting its parents/carers and asking whether you fit into these categories and wish your child to continue to attend school.

We will need to put plans in place rapidly to meet this call to action, for example continuing to open for these children throughout the Easter holiday. A lot of the detail linked to this announcement has yet to be published, such as how the provision for free school meals will work and how qualifications will be awarded in the absence of exams. We appreciate that this could be really upsetting for young people who have worked so hard but the government is committed to working with the relevant bodies to ensure that young people are able to move onto their chosen destination, university, apprenticeships, sixth form etc.

For other children, whilst they are at home, they should continue with their learning using the resources given to them or accessed through their school's website. The government will also be working with the BBC and others to provide resources to support children's learning at home.

We will keep in touch with parents/carers and children via each school's, and the trust's, website and will let you know when your child's school will re-open.

The Secretary of state said in his speech to the House of Commons that headteachers, teachers and staff who work in schools are central to the country's response. The last week has been very challenging but my colleagues at WMAT are remarkable in their resilience and commitment to children and young people. Through working together, I know we will rise to this challenge and make the difference our country needs.

Thank you for your support and understanding at this challenging time. We wish you and your family all the very best.

Yours sincerely,



Andrea Arlidge  
Chief Executive