



Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: Meadowcroft School COVID 19 Update

You will be aware that the government has announced the closure of schools from Friday for an undefined period of time for most pupils. However, the most vulnerable children – defined as those with a social worker or with ECHP's in place – **will continue to attend school**.

Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, has said: *'we recognise that many special schools and residential settings will need to continue to look after their pupils'*.

All of the young people at Meadowcroft School are in some way vulnerable and will have a social worker and /or an EHCP. Our school, will therefore, **remain open** unless we receive guidance from the government or local authorities to close them.

I personally believe that this a very positive approach, especially for the most vulnerable young people. Staff at Meadowcroft will continue to be committed and dedicated to ensure young people at our school receive an education that they are entitled to, even during these unprecedented times Meadowcroft school does not intend to suspend its curriculum, however certain restrictions around site movements and accessing Outdoor Education may still be enforced, however we will continue to review these decisions around specific risk assessments.

We recognise as parents/carers, you will have many concerns around placing your child in a school environment, particularly as COVID-19 continues to spread across our country and although it is not mandatory to send your child into school; I would urge you to do so.

It is prevalent to remind you as parents/carers, although the school will continue to remain open, that you will be expected to follow Government guidelines around isolation if your child or anyone in your household displays symptoms associated with COVID-19.

If you do not intend to send your child into school due to isolation or general concerns around COVID-19, I would ask that you contact us, so you as parents/carers and us a school are able to discuss and agree what is the best course of action for your child would be.

In the event of your child remaining at home (whether through your choice or mandatory isolation) we will still be committed in delivering 'Home Learning' packs on a weekly basis.





There will be an expectation that work is completed and we will arrange for its collection and the delivery of new work. Personalised support will be made available via contacting the school and one of our specialised staff members will contact you back as soon as they become available. The school will also be dedicated in ensuring that the welfare and the safeguarding of our young people continues to be paramount during these times and as a result regular calls and door stop visits (wherever possible) will occur.

We are currently exploring plans to be able to offer our young people an opportunity to attend school over the Easter Holidays. We are intending to run several clubs which will blend learning with personal and social enrichment activities throughout the holiday period. You will be contacted over the next few days about whether this is something that may be of interest.

Despite the ever increasing concerns around COVID-19, I would like to reiterate that I would urge you to continue to send your child into school as I believe that they will continue to have access to specialist curriculum support, therapeutic interventions as well as strategies to support their personal development and behaviour & attitudes.

I know that these are tricky times fueled with uncertainty and anxiety, so it is vital that we continue to support one another and that we continue to support our young people by keeping them safe and providing constant reassurance.

Please feel free to contact either myself or other members of the Senior Leadership Team should you have any further questions.

In addition, I have attached a letter from the OFG Group CEO, David Leatherbarrow as a group wide response to the Government's decision to close schools.

Kindest regards

Darren Singh
Principal, Meadowcroft School.



Dear Parent/Carers

For over 25 years, Outcomes First Group, our local authority customers, and the parent community we serve, have faced many challenges big and small and come through them all by supporting each other and working together

I wanted to write to you personally to update you on how we are managing the coronavirus pandemic and keep you informed about the situation at the school in light of the current Covid19 pandemic. I also wanted to reassure you that we are being very proactive in supporting our pupils and their specific needs.

Almost all the children in Outcomes First Group schools (Acorn / Hillcrest & Options) are vulnerable in some way and we are following Government guidelines to keep our schools open as we are regarded as an essential service.

It is also extremely important that we keep our children safe and as such I would ask you to make sure you do not send your children to school should they present with any symptoms of coronavirus and please do call us to see if we might be able to help in some way with some home study if you felt that were appropriate.

We will endeavour to continue teaching pupils in the normal manner over the coming weeks, however, we may need to make daily adjustments to some of our curriculum routines to accommodate our available staff levels, but can assure you this will not impact on your child's learning,

For our parent community, we are very aware that many of you are classified as key workers and if you are, we would encourage you to contact us direct and let us know. This is in order we may plan to potentially keep part of the school open during the Easter break to support you in your essential role.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any general questions or questions specific to your child.

In the meantime, it is the kindness and support that we give to each other that will help us get through these unprecedented times, my sincere thanks go to you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

David Leatherbarrow
CEO Outcomes First Group



