

20th March 2020

Dear Parent,

Re: School Closure – ‘Vulnerable Pupils’

Following the Government’s announcement on Wednesday in respect to school closures, guidance, in regard to [Maintaining Educational Provision](#) for ‘vulnerable pupils’ and ‘pupils of key workers’, has now been published. This letter is concerned with ‘vulnerable pupils’ and a subsequent letter will deal with ‘pupils of key workers’.

The purpose of the Government’s strategy in respect to school closures is to prevent mass gatherings and facilitate social distancing, to thus reduce the spread of coronavirus and the associated health impacts on children, staff and the wider community. **I therefore strongly urge parents, regardless of whether their child meets the Government’s criteria as outlined in the guidance, and particularly if they have underlying health conditions, to keep their child at home, where possible.**

In respect to ‘vulnerable pupils’, this group is defined by the Government as ‘*children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, ‘looked after’ children, young carers, disabled children and those with EHCP*’. The Academy has produced a list of pupils and will be contacting parents directly to confirm whether they intend to send their child to school on Monday 23rd March. This list will be used to generate a daily register.

Your child will be expected to attend in full uniform and complete normal school hours. I have concerns regarding the potential risks associated with groups of ‘vulnerable pupils’ travelling to and from school. **I therefore strongly advise that you make appropriate arrangements to transport your child to and from school to mitigate this risk.**

Whilst at school, your child will undertake the same learning programme that pupils not attending school will be undertaking at home. If your child is in receipt of a free school meal, arrangements will be made for the provision of food, whilst the e-voucher system is set up with Tesco.

If staffing levels continue to reduce, I may have to close the Academy entirely. Should this occur, you will need to contact [Southend Local Authority](#) who will seek to redirect your child to another local school in the area.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. N. Houchen
Principal