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23rd March 2020

TO ALL FAMILIES ACROSS THE LEARN TO LIVE FEDERATION

Dear All,

The Government published updated information yesterday evening on Guidance relating to Vulnerable Children and Young People:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

In the first section, it clearly states: **Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.** Government advice is very clear – you and your children are safest at home. Sending your child in to school puts your child, you, those in your household and school staff at risk of infection. We must assume that children and young people will remain at home.

The only exceptions to this are:

1. where a parent is a key worker **AND** there is **no alternative childcare possible**;
2. it is believed as a result of a risk assessment process, a child is safer in school than at home.

Every day, the message grows stronger: it is not business as usual; we are going to notice a difference to our normal lives; we must stay at home to protect ourselves and others; we must keep physically apart from people who are not part of our household.

I know many of you believed our schools could continue as usual with Transport bringing in our very vulnerable children and young people every day. This simply is not possible. It is unsafe practice and will endanger many lives.

We can better support you by having good online provision and by keeping in regular contact. Teachers will phone families every week to make sure everything is okay. We will offer support to you, wherever we can.

We understand that these are frightening times. We really are here for you by providing support that is safe, reducing the risk of infection by making hard decisions and making sure we can get back to normal as quickly as possible once this wretched virus goes away.

We have already started to contact individual families and will continue to make calls throughout the day. If you haven't heard from us by the end of today, your child will need to stay at home. The expectation is that only a very small minority of children will be able to access school until further notice.

Transport will be notified of the final names of pupils to attend school, and these children and young people will be collected on the days we have allocated for them. The situation is changing day by day and any on-site offer is reliant on Government advice which may require everyone to stay at home, and also on the availability of fit and well school staff.

Yours faithfully



Jacqui Warne
Executive Head

