

24th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Following the Prime Minister's instruction yesterday evening I have made the difficult decision to fully close all schools in Magna Learning Partnership to pupils and staff from Wednesday 25th March 2020.

Headteachers and staff in all schools put a tremendous amount of work into the planning of the arrangements for vulnerable children and key workers for this week onwards. However, the number of children in schools yesterday were less than half those expected; that number has diminished again today. Our small primary school has insufficient capacity to offer ongoing provision for children that ensures that they are distanced from other non-family members and therefore safe from possible contraction of the virus. In the secondary schools, the students present find that having to be distanced by two metres from other students and from a member of staff who could help them with their work is both difficult and mentally isolating. Large numbers of our staff across the Trust now cannot work on a school site owing to illness, having a family member with symptoms or being a member of a vulnerable group. Given that teachers and others working in schools are not provided with any personal protective equipment, you can understand that many are increasingly anxious. I believe it is right to protect the staff. By closing the schools completely, I am ensuring that they are able to abide by the instruction from the government to stay at home and that we as an organisation of over 3000 children and young people and almost 400 staff contribute significantly to the delay and containment of the virus through sticking to the isolation rules.

In all our schools and in our sixth form college, good on line learning opportunities are available for our pupils and students, as well as other packs of work provided for them. We really appreciate all the messages of support we have received from parents over the last week or so.

I recognise that a very small number of keyworker parents will now have to find alternative childcare from tomorrow. I would like to offer support with this: please contact me directly at sbusby@magnalearningpartnership.org.uk

I sincerely apologise for any inconvenience or difficulty this decision will prompt. However, I believe that it is the best decision in the circumstances to keep our children and our staff as safe as we possibly can.

With best wishes for the continued health of you and your families.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Busby', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Busby
Chief Executive Officer