



17th March 2020

Dear parents and carers

RE: Notice of school closure to all pupils and staff in 'increased risk' group

(Guidance from: www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people)

The leadership and Trustees of Severndale Academy have just made the extremely difficult decision to close as of tomorrow, for those who fall under the 'increased risk' group as described by the latest guidance from Public Health England (PHE) for those under the age of 70, needing to follow social distancing measures.

Increased risk group to practise social distancing

We have identified that **all pupils** at Severndale Academy fall under the 'increased risk' group; as all have a diagnosed learning disability, and many have additional complex medical issues. We have also identified that 24% of our staff fall into this group. Closing the school to these groups of pupils and staff will enable them to follow social distancing measures in accordance to PHE advice.

We have taken the view that this new guidance suggests that a special school environment, with daily transport journeys, is a riskier place for your child/young person to be during the 'delay phase' of the pandemic, than to be at home with you, where you can shield them from contact with others as far as is possible.

Severndale, Monkmoor campus

Severndale, Monkmoor campus will remain open to those who do not fall in the 'increased risk' group. We expect that less staff will be able to access school as the days/ weeks progress as more people/households will self-isolate as this unprecedented situation continues, and therefore work from home. Our position may change depending on the availability of key staff (site staff).

In these extraordinary times, it is very clear that our communities will need to pull together and find new ways to support each other. We believe that with the additional vulnerabilities of many of our learners, the importance of protecting them from the health risks posed by Covid-19 is of paramount importance and therefore know that we are taking serious precautions in protecting our children.

Continued contact

We will continue to work with other agencies and partners to identify what we can do to support children/ young people and yourselves whilst your child is not in school. We will try our best to continue with review meetings using conference call facilities, and we will send you suggested activities and online resources that your child/ young person can access while at home. Please maintain contact with class teams and feedback how you are getting on.

We will keep you up to date using text and email, and we will post additional information and guidance onto the Information and Resources section of our school website:

<http://www.severndaleschool.org/information-resources/parent-calendar/parent-resources/>.

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Principal: Sabrina Hobbs

Severndale Specialist Academy



Everyone valued. Everyone included. Everyone learning.

If you need any additional support, please continue to call school and we will help as best we can. Please remember our staff also have families that will have additional commitments linked to any wider school closures. We will not always be able to reply to you immediately. In the event of any medical enquiry please follow government advice.

This is a quickly developing situation and we will be continuously reviewing it throughout in order to resume normal operations as soon as it is safe. We will keep you informed.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sabrina Hobbs', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sabrina Hobbs
Principal