



# The Consortium Trust

*Where together excellence and pupils thrive*

1<sup>st</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Covid-19 impact and our actions**

With less than three weeks until half term, I am writing to update you what we are doing to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 in our settings. I would like to publically thank the many parents that continue to support our staff during the ongoing disruption. Our staff are showing huge levels of resilience and commitment, we are doing everything possible to keep our settings safe and open. We are following the DfE guidance and taking appropriate public health advice as required.

But, it must be noted that we are experiencing very high levels of staff absence, largely but not exclusively due to Covid isolation requirements. Many settings are operating on skeleton staff levels and local leaders are working hard to ensure that we provide the best provision possible. Members of the central team staff are deployed to schools to fill gaps where we can. Even so, there is a lack of quality supply staff and on occasions settings may, at short notice introduce other measures to ensure that children can continue to attend school. These measures may include:

- Merging of classes or groups;
- Change the timetable;
- Removing elements of the extended curriculum;
- Pause, cancel or defer a planned activity or task;
- Use staff from other parts of the school, the central team, other Trust settings or external agencies.

None of these actions are taken lightly, but they will be in line with DfE guidance and Public Health advice. Decisions will be taken in light of staff availability and at all times in the best interests of the children. I appreciate that all disruptions are unwelcome, and I thank you in advance for your continued support and patience.

As a Trust we are committed to the health, safety and well-being of all and we want to be able to support our community, we continue to be mindful of enhanced hygiene, are normalising our routines and focusing on the education of your children. I would like to stress again that we are following government guidance, we rely on the NHS to provide contact tracing, PPE is available for personal care and we apply DfE guidance around school attendance and the delivery of what your children are learning in school.

As we continue to move forward and guidance alters, I am very much expecting to once again welcome parents, carers and the wider community back into school again. I will update you further after the half term break.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne  
CEO & Principal

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