

THE CURRENT SITUATION:

There are 43 pupils on roll.

13 pupils are in school today

17 education staff are in school today

2 agency staff are in school today

3 RCCO's are in school today

2 Business managers are in school today

1 Site manager is in school today

Other Complicating factor:

No heating or hot water in residential block due to leak on underground pipework. Awaiting report from asbestos testing before repair can commence. Residence will have to remain closed until heating and hot water can be restored.

THE ADVICE FROM THE GOVERNMENT (updated Sunday 22nd March 2020)

- 'If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading'.
- The safest place for everyone, pupils and staff, is at home where contact with others is kept to a minimum.
- Children with EHC plans should be risk assessed by school (in consultation with the Local Authority and Parents) to determine if they can safely have their needs met at home.
- 'Many children with EHC plans can safely remain at home'
- For children supported by the social care system, schools should be 'balancing the protective factor of being at school carefully with the urgent need to reduce social contact right across society'.
- The expectation is that 'vulnerable children' who have a social worker (Looked After children and children covered by sections 17 and 47 of the Children's act 1989) will attend school as long as it is safe for them to do so.
- The key considerations in this is, 'are they at significant risk if not at school?' and 'could they be safely supported at home?'
- Parents are being urged to keep their children at home unless absolutely necessary.
- Children whose parents fall into the critical worker category should still make arrangements to have them looked after at home and only send them to school if there is no alternative

THE PLAN:

- Pupils and staff who are currently self-isolating should remain at home for the rest of term. (up to Friday 3rd April)
- Any pupils or staff who need to self-isolate in the next two weeks should not return to school until after Easter.
- Parents should follow the latest advice that says 'If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading'.

- School is only open for pupils who are supported by the social care system who are at significant risk if they were to remain at home. This risk to be assessed by school in consultation with the social worker and parents.
- These pupils are: [REDACTED]
- The school day for pupils will be 08:50 to 12:30. Lunch will be served at 12:00.
- School is open to staff. Not all staff will need to attend school.
- Staff may work from home as agreed with the Head Teacher.
- Staff who have childcare responsibilities and need to drop off/pick up within their normal working hours will need to negotiate this with the Head Teacher.
- Holly House is not currently planning to be open over the Easter Holidays.
- There is a staff training day on Monday 20th April.
- Plans for the start of the new term on Tuesday 21st April will be communicated to parents and staff at by Friday 17th April

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In making decisions about opening or closing the school, I have had to take many things into account:

- The risk pupils are exposed to of contracting Covid-19 by travelling to and being at school.
- The risk staff are exposed to of contracting Covid-19 by travelling to and being at school.
- The advice that everyone apart from essential 'Key Workers' should stay at home and keep contact with others to a minimum.
- The difficulty of maintaining social distancing in a school/classroom environment.
- The number of staff who are 'self-isolating' over the next two weeks could reduce staffing levels on site to a dangerously low level.
- Staff are being exposed to unnecessary risk by being at school with other staff and children.
- Some staff are in 'At Risk' groups and have been advised to stay at home.
- We have a legal obligation to meet the requirements of EHC plans – can we still do this with pupils at home?

AND FINALLY:

Holly House is open, but only for pupils with social care involvement or whose parents are in the Key Worker category and cannot make alternative childcare provision. Staff are expected to 'work from home' but if fit and available may be called back into school if plans/guidance change. Staff who want to work in school may do between the hours of 09:00 and 13:00.

This plan is based on information, advice and guidance available at the time of writing. If anything changes, up to date information can be found on the Holly House Website. If anyone has any questions, please ring the Head Teacher on 01246 450530 or email iwilliams@hollyhouse.derbyshire.sch.uk