

8th June 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Following the Government announcement relating to an increase in the R value within the South West region, which represents the rate at which Covid-19 is spreading, I am writing to update you on the impact this has on Venturers Trust academies.

As we have said from the outset, nothing is more important than the health and safety of our staff and pupils, and this remains our highest priority.

I have spoken directly with the Director of Public Health for Bristol and with the Director of Education and Skills from Bristol City Council. In line with advice provided by the Government, they have assured me that it is still safe to open our schools to eligible children and that doing so will not have a negative impact on the current risk level for schools.

Our robust risk assessments are reviewed daily and if we felt that we could not provide a safe environment for our staff and pupils, we simply would not open our schools. We will therefore remain open unless we are advised by the Government or the City Council to close, or if we make a local decision to close based on individual circumstances.

I recognise that this latest update from the Government relating to the R value will cause many of you to question whether sending your child to school this week is the right decision. I want to reassure you that we have done, and continue to do, everything possible to protect the health and safety of your children in school. We have implemented extensive measures to adapt the environment in-school in order to adhere to social distancing guidelines, every classroom and communal area is thoroughly deep-cleaned on a regular basis and we have implemented advanced hygiene routines across every school. However, if you decide that you would prefer to keep your child at home for the time being, you will not be fined or prosecuted. Everyone's circumstances are different and I encourage you to make the right decision for your family. You will still be able to access the online curriculum-based distance learning materials designed to support all pupils who continue to learn at home.

This is a fluid situation and the information and advice from Government may change over the coming days. If new information affects the in-school provision that we are able to offer, I will update you immediately. I realise that the uncertainty of the current situation means that it is very difficult to make plans relating to your own work and other responsibilities, and I want to thank you for your understanding, flexibility and support as we do our best to respond to this unprecedented situation.

Sincerely,



David Watson OBE
Chief Executive Officer