

19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

I am writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close all Waterton Academy Trust schools to almost all children after Friday 20th of March until further notice.**

As advised by the government, we will do all that we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs. A full list of key worker jobs is due to be announced by the government this afternoon at which point we will be asking you to complete a short online form if you think your child may need to attend school during this period. The link for this form will be available on the Trust website and through usual school communication channels.

If you are a key worker, we ask that you consider the care that you are able to provide at home without having to call on a potentially vulnerable wider support network. We also ask that you look at your working patterns to see when you **essentially** need school provision in preparation for completing the online form.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.

Please note that this is a national closure, so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. Our response to this situation will be coordinated by Waterton Academy Trust and our intention is to re-open all schools fully as soon as the government allows. We will let you know when this is by posting on the trust website www.watertonacademytrust.org, on school websites, via school apps and social media.

What we'll continue doing while your child is at home

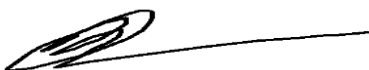
Your child's learning is of course important to us. To help your child to learn at home we are doing the following:

- Learning Resources can be found on both school and Waterton Academy Trust websites.
- Educational guidance will be provided once further details of the government's plans are announced
- Waterton Academy Trust central team will continue to operate to deal with any concerns. Contact details and arrangements will be provided by no later than Friday.
- If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience and support as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch with any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to do so via info@watertonacademytrust.org. Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Yours sincerely



Mr. D Dickinson OBE
CEO
Waterton Academy Trust