

1 May 2020



Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Embrace Multi Academy Trust Update on Coronavirus

I do hope that you and your families are safe and well. We are aware that the current period has been challenging for everyone and that some of you, depending on circumstances, are facing more difficulties than others. We will continue to do everything within our power to support your children now and as we move forwards.

Currently

As you will be aware, schools have remained open to children of critical workers and to those who are most vulnerable. At the same time, Embrace schools have been providing work for children to complete at home and have been communicating with families to check on wellbeing.

If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing, there are a number of agencies and online contacts that can provide support. Many of these are outlined within the parent/carer coronavirus bulletin on the Embrace website (as well as a range of other useful information) <https://www.embracemat.org/coronavirus/> Otherwise, please contact your child's school if you would like further information or to discuss concerns.

Some parents/carers have asked about their child returning to school currently. Headteachers have been placed in a difficult position in this respect, as we want to support all of our children and families as well as we can. However, we have to follow the strict government rules around this matter. This has meant applying the rules on which children have access to school and thus supporting the protection of the NHS and saving lives. Please support the difficult decisions that have been made by headteachers, for these important reasons, at this particular time.

Return to school

Currently, the government has not set a date for schools to re-open. However, as you will be aware, the government is meeting next week to discuss the current restrictions. This may provide an update on schools re-opening, but when they do re-open, it is feasible that some of the current government restrictions will remain in place, such as social distancing. At that point, we will need to make local decisions in line with government guidelines on the nature of school re-opening. It is possible that schools will not fully re-open, but will have to open to specific children only, based on needs, in order to ensure everyone's health and safety. This could be specific categories of children or specific year groups.

When the time comes, we will abide by government advice and prioritise safety measures. We will update our planning and risk assessments and keep parents/carers informed about the arrangements. We are already working with other agencies and as a trust to prepare for this stage.

I am sorry that we are not able to provide any further clarity at this stage, but hope that this helps you to understand the situation.

Please continue to put your family's safety first and do not hesitate to contact your child's school if your child requires any additional support. We remain here to support you and I am very grateful for having such a wonderful group of leaders, teachers and support staff across all schools in the trust.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chris Southall'.

Mr Chris Southall
Trust Leader