

11 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Just like you, I watched the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday evening hoping that it would give some clarity over the reopening of schools.

I am of the opinion that we have not received anywhere near enough information to come up with a practical and manageable plan for reopening schools. At this time I urgently await with anticipation further guidance to enable us to explore the plans for reopening schools safely.

My colleagues have all devoted their lives and careers to the care and education of young people – we do not want to see classrooms empty for a day longer than they need to be. However, the first priority has to be the safety of everyone in the school community.

I want to reassure you all that if the national guidance (once known) cannot be safely applied in your school, your Principal along with myself and the Trust Board will retain the power to make decisions regarding the safety of pupils and staff based on our own individual risk assessments. This may ultimately mean that schools are not in a position to expand pupil numbers in the way the government has indicated on the 1 June.

Whilst all of us will have many questions, in the short-term nothing has changed. Our provision at Windmill continues to run for a limited number of children – those classed as vulnerable and the children of key workers.

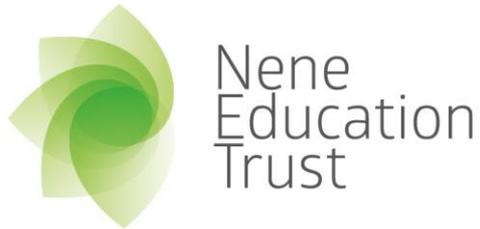
We will assess the demand for this provision during this week to allow us to plan for any changes to the provision alongside the potential for schools reopening. To help us to do this please complete the form via the link below if you believe you are a key worker and require support with childcare. **You will only need to complete this form if you have not already used the childcare provision and anticipate that you will need to do so due to a change of work and childcare circumstances in your household.**

<http://bit.ly/NETparentkeyworker>

As has been demonstrated already, many parents working in these 'key worker' sectors have been able to ensure their child is kept at home. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they must be.

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Finally, we are also interested to gain the views of all of you in the community around the reopening of schools. Please complete the very simple form below to share your thoughts and opinions.

<https://bit.ly/NETreopening>

I will provide further information in the coming days and weeks once I am able to do so.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Hill", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Chris Hill

CEO

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