

ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Ania Hildrey, M.Ed, B.Ed(Hons), NPQH



24 March 2020

Dear Families

Ref: Closure of childcare provision at Abbot's Lea School

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you to inform you that as of tomorrow, Wednesday, 25 March 2020, Abbot's Lea School will no longer provide any childcare to its students.

It is my professional judgment that I can no longer provide a safer service and there is nothing within my power or that of the Local Authority that can change the level of that risk and the risks of remaining open outweigh any benefits to the wider society.

This decision was made in consultation with the Chair of Governors and with an agreement from the Director of Children's Services at Liverpool City Council.

This decision has not been taken lightly and, as you know, closing our provision for the essential key workers may raise questions over our adhering to the guidance given to special schools by the central government.

The national lockdown was the right thing to impose and it is my belief that it must include our students and staff.

With only two students attending today, and yet a number of staff required to maintain that provision, the human cost of remaining open is not justifiable.

The decision is therefore made with the health and safety in mind and with the ultimate aim of long-term protection of the students, the staff, the families and the wider public in light of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Many of my staff are unwell, most in self isolation and this number is growing by the day. I know that you will wish them all the very best for their recovery and wellbeing.

Those who are well will work remotely, between 8:30-16:00 from Monday to Friday, until and including 3 April 2020.

Weekly contact with each student will be made on the phone (this will be on Monday next week now). If no contact is established, this will be repeated until successful continued non-contact will be seen as a potential safeguarding risk and so a visit to the home to verify a child's wellbeing will be carried out.

Provision for children of key workers will be accessible through the hubs and all families who are key workers who require this support are encouraged to contact their nearest hub for support:

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/communities-and-safety/emergency-planning/coronavirus/hubs-for-children-of-key-workers/>

I realise that this is a very difficult situation for us all – including us, the key workers whose families often come last – and I trust you will understand and accept this decision.

We do not know how long this situation will continue but we do know that we will not be re-opening during the national lockdown period or the Easter break.

Therefore, the earliest Abbot's Lea School will consider opening is Monday, 20 April 2020. This date is, of course, subject to change.

If you have any further questions or would like to speak to a senior member of staff, please contact me directly and I will either answer your question swiftly if I can, or, forward your query to one of my colleagues. My email address is: headteacher@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

Your child's, your own and my team's health is key – please stay at home, do not take any chances and stay well.

We will see each other once this situation gets resolved.

With my warmest wishes,

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A Hildrey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher