



## Unity Education Trust

16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone in our schools across Unity Education Trust.

I can honestly say that the past few months have proven beyond a doubt what an absolute privilege it is to be the CEO of such an amazing group of schools who continue to effectively collaborate to ensure the very best for all our children, families and staff as part of the 'Unity Way'. Yourselves, the children, leaders, staff and Governors have all worked exceptionally hard and supported each other through this most challenging of times.

We have been delighted to be able to welcome back more children and families since the 8<sup>th</sup> June and are so proud of how well the children have adjusted to the new routines and procedures. They are an absolute credit to our schools and their families.

We are now fast approaching the end of the summer term and we would like to share with you our planning and preparation for the new academic year.

### SEPTEMBER 2020 INFORMATION

As you may be aware the Government have issued new guidance for schools to prepare to welcome all children back to school in September (Issued on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July).

As with all the previous government guidance documents, the Department for Education recognise;

*'There cannot be a 'one-size-fits all' approach... School leaders will be best placed to understand the needs of their schools and communities, and to make informed judgments about how to balance delivering a broad and balanced curriculum with the measures needed to manage risk'.*

The Government expects school leaders to put in place proportionate protective measures for children and staff, which also ensure that all pupils receive a high-quality education that enables them to thrive and progress.

This is the set of actions schools must take. They are grouped into 'prevention' and 'response to any infection' and are outlined in more detail in the sections below.

Prevention:

- 1) minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- 2) clean hands thoroughly more often than usual
- 3) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach



4) introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach

5) minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible

6) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Numbers 1 to 4 must be in place in all schools, all the time.

Number 5 must be properly considered, and schools must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.

Number 6 applies in specific circumstances.

Response to any infection:

7) engage with the NHS Test and Trace process

8) manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community

9) contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

Numbers 7 to 9 must be followed in every case where they are relevant.

We are being asked to minimise the number of contacts that a pupil has during the school day to support the key aim of minimising the risk of transmission in school.

The government also expects schools to plan for the possibility of a local lockdown and how we will ensure the continuity of education.

As you can imagine the preparation and discussion needed to make decisions moving forward are both complex and challenging. With all that in mind the Headteachers, Staff and Governing bodies of our schools have prepared an opening plan to be implemented in the Autumn Term.

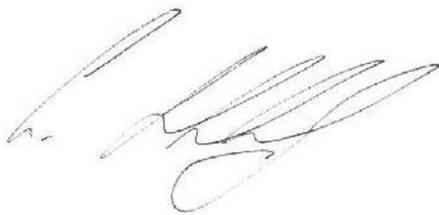
I think it is important to remember that we are still learning how to live with Covid-19 and the plans we have put in place are intended to minimise the risk for everyone and to sustain the provision of education for as long as possible.

The decisions taken have been made following government guidance, collaborative working across our schools and reference to Norfolk County Council and Unions guidance. Further national reviews will be taking place in August and we will update any planning, and inform parents and carers, taking into account everybody's health, safety and well-being at our schools.

Please see the letter from your Executive Headteacher for details about September arrangements.

May I wish you and your families all the very best for a happy and safe summer break. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you all back in September.

Yours sincerely,



Glyn Hambling  
CEO Unity Education Trust