



5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I wrote to you a few days ago to explain the effect that moving into Tier 4 would have on our schools. We are now entering a full national lockdown and I wanted to explain the way that this will affect you, your children and our schools. The full government guidance is available [here](#).

School closures

In accordance with the national measures, our LIFE Primary and Secondary schools will be closed from today until February half-term for on-site attendance except for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers.

Public tests and examinations

Public vocational exams and assessments scheduled to take place in January will go ahead but Summer Exams for secondary schools will not go ahead as planned. The Secretary of State will work with Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements and more details including the effect on SATs will be published in due course which we will share with you.

Free School Meal Provision

During the period of national lockdown, schools will continue to make food available for those in receipt of Free School Meals who are in school. Our schools will also be working on ways to continue to provide free school meals or food parcels for pupils who are eligible for benefits related free school meals who are not attending school.

Attendance recording in schools

All schools will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers only. Parents of children in these categories who do not attend school should notify their school. Individual schools will explain this process.

Remote education

All our schools will provide quality daily activities and contact for those pupils being educated at home. This will include work in a range of subjects, regular explanations from teachers, and feedback on tasks set.

Safety and Wellbeing

We will continue to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils in school. Please contact your individual school if you have concerns about your child's safety or wellbeing while they are at home, so that we can offer support. Staff will be in regular contact with home particularly to support pupils who we know have special educational needs or are vulnerable.

Beliefs and Values

This is not the start to 2021 that any of us wanted and our thoughts and prayers are with you as you support your children through the next few weeks. We know that our beliefs of courageous optimism, boundless creativity and heartfelt compassion will help us through these testing times.

With very best wishes

Julian Dutnall
CEO

