

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Information update as of 20/3/20:**

The information contained within this letter is up to date at the time of writing. Changes may occur at short notice.

As you may have heard on the news, from Monday Greenbank School will not be expected to continue to operate in an education capacity.

The offer that we are trying to develop is **not** compulsory for families, so although your child has an EHCP, you are under no obligation to take up the offer we propose.

**The Social Distancing advice from Public Health England details that people with learning disabilities (and associated health conditions, including asthma) are 'at increased risk', and are advised to socially distance themselves for 12 weeks currently.**

If you decide to keep your child at home on the grounds that they are at increased risk due to their disability or any other underlying health condition detailed in the guidance, I completely understand as the first priority is for the health and safety of your families.

**Please**, therefore, follow these key principles issues by Government on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2020:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.
5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

With regard to point 2 above, officially, if one parent is a key worker, the government has asked the other parent to have their child at home. Some Number 10 sources have suggested that only one parent needs to be on the list in order to send their children to school. This is expected to be clarified soon by the Government.

With regard to point 5 above, this will be subject to schools ability to safely staff and supervise students. If staffing reaches a critical point provision will have to be reviewed.



**Headteacher: Mr M. McCann**

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School will close on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March** and re-open on for students **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**, 2020. This will give school time to collate your responses which are finalised, staff information and formulate and plan to establish a sustainable offer. Please note however that any plan is subject to change based on the circumstances school faces.

Information will continue to be posted on schools website and will maintain contact as the position changes.

<http://www.greenbankschool.org/>

The emphasis continues to be to follow Government guidance and maintain high levels of personal hygiene.

If your child or a family member becomes ill you should observe the self-isolation protocols and not send your child into school.

If at any time your child becomes unwell in school you will need to have the capacity to collect them whilst they are in isolation at school. Again isolation protocols should be observed. Staff will not be able take your child home.

This is a challenging situation and we all have our role to play if the 12 week turn around target is to be met. Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

**Mr M. McCann**  
**Head teacher**