

11th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Critical Worker and Vulnerable Pupil Arrangements from Monday 22nd February

Current situation

As you are aware, the Bolton community, Morris Green and St. Bede Academy are experiencing a high level of COVID cases. This week we reduced our pupil and staff numbers by offering places to the children identified as vulnerable, children whose parents are both critical workers and single parents with a critical worker position. We had hoped that this would quickly reduce the number of positive cases, but unfortunately we are still experiencing high numbers of positive cases. Each and every positive case is communicated to 'Contact and Trace' and 'Bolton Local Authority'. Recently, the Academy also requested to work alongside the Public Health team in Bolton to share plans and strategy, to reduce and manage the level of positive cases with the new and more transmissible 'Kent' strain.

Please be assured that we have robust procedures in place; the Public Health team, together with the Department for Education and the Local Authority are impressed by the measures and processes we have had in place, and how we are dealing with the local community outbreak. They agreed with us that reducing staff and pupil numbers on site would be beneficial.

It is worth noting that we have the same procedures in place at our other site, Tonge Moor Academy. They are in a different community in Bolton and we have experienced no cases since the start of the school year. **We have therefore been assured by all agencies that this is a local community outbreak and is not something that could have been avoided by a different process within our school.**

Safety measures week beginning 22nd February

Keeping our staff and pupils safe is of paramount importance to us. We believe that we will only see a reduction in positive cases if we continue to keep the numbers of pupils and staff to a minimum on site. Therefore, with full support from:

- The Department for Education
- The Local Authority
- Our Trust Directors
- Our Local Governing Body

We will continue to offer places to the children identified as **vulnerable**, children whose parents are **both critical workers** and **single parents** with a critical worker position for the **week Mon 22nd – Fri 26th Feb.**

Learning, Caring, Growing Together

Head of School: Mrs S. Rostron

St Bede Primary Academy, Morris Green Lane, Bolton, BL3 3LJ

Telephone: 01204 61899 Website: www.stbedeacademy.org Company Registered Number: 07628909

We are conscious that half term is fast approaching; our aim, with your help, is to reduce the number of cases but want to remind families of the rules in terms of social mixing: [National lockdown: Stay at Home - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-lockdown-stay-at-home)

Review

We will continue to review the number of positive cases that we experience within our school and the local community over the next two weeks (w/c 15th Feb and w/c 22nd Feb). We will communicate an update of our current situation by Wednesday 24th February and hope that the numbers of cases will have reduced with the further measures in place. The Government will be publishing further guidance (around 22nd February) on its roadmap to reopening schools. We will review this and issue further guidance to you at that time.

Your support

Your support and understanding during this time is greatly appreciated. Coronavirus has impacted on many of our staff, pupils and local families. We are going through an incredibly difficult time whilst still endeavouring to offer the best educational package, to both the pupils at school and pupils working at home. Your words of encouragement and support really make the world of difference. Each Friday in staff briefing we share all parental positive feedback and staff greatly appreciate your kind thoughts and words.

It is tough for everyone at the moment, so thank you for your understanding and compassion.

Look after yourselves and stay safe!

Kind regards

Mrs S Rostron & Mrs A Black
Co-Heads of School

Learning, Caring, Growing Together

Head of School: Mrs S. Rostron

St Bede Primary Academy, Morris Green Lane, Bolton, BL3 3LJ

Telephone: 01204 61899 Website: www.stbedeacademy.org Company Registered Number: 07628909