



20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now in our last full day of school for all learners and it does feel very strange. I want to thank you and your children for all of the amazing messages and the support that has been given. Our staff team do not want to stop teaching your children and we are just committed to doing it in a different way. Thank you to those already at home who have been fantastic at working hard and have been sharing that hard work with us. Children have been sticking to their structure and it is working so far. Please encourage them to keep in touch with teachers by email, we are finding this really important for children and staff. We will be releasing more resources as time goes on, but will be supporting provision of e books, running book clubs, hopefully joining a choir and linking to exercise sessions. If this is long term we want to support and provide for your children throughout that time and keep learning happening. I have optimism that out of this situation will come good, and we will try our best to contribute to this.

We are looking at our provision for next week for a small group of students. The government definition of those groups has finally been released this morning and can be read in full here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

With guidance for parents and carers here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

There are some very key messages in this information that we must take full notice of. Although we would love to remain open to all children, the fact is that we cannot, and we have to take this instruction and responsibility very seriously.

The guidance states very clearly if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

We will follow the key principles identified in the government documentation.

Headteacher: Mrs. Vanessa Whitcombe

Unity Schools Partnership is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 07400386. The registered office is at Unity SP Offices, Park Road, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7YD.



Castle Manor Academy
Eastern Avenue
Haverhill
Suffolk CB9 9JE

Tel: 01440 705501
Fax: 01440 714050
Email: info@castlemanor.org.uk
Website: www.castlemanor.org.uk



Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

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.

item 4 is particularly important. Children should not be mixing socially in a way that can transmit the virus. Social distancing should apply.

There is further guidance on social distancing available here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

We will be contacting parents of children with an EHCP or who have a social worker today and together decide the best provision for them. We ask anyone who is in a key worker group who is not able to safely have their children at home to contact us today as soon as possible by emailing me on VWhitcombe@castlemanor.org.uk. If key workers need provision on only particular days of the week due to shift patterns please let us know. We will be working on a fortnightly basis identifying what is needed so we can structure our provision. Lessons are unlikely to be as formally taught as they are in normal school and there will be elements of supervised study.

As always please contact me if you need to via email. We think that we have very good coverage now of parents by email but please share this with your friends.

Vanessa Whitcombe
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs. Vanessa Whitcombe

Unity Schools Partnership is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 07400386. The registered office is at Unity SP Offices, Park Road, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7YD.



Castle Manor Academy
Eastern Avenue
Haverhill
Suffolk CB9 9JE

Tel: 01440 705501
Fax: 01440 714050
Email: info@castlemanor.org.uk
Website: www.castlemanor.org.uk