



Crewe Road, Airedale, Castleford WF10 3JU – Tel: 01977 664555 – Fax: 01977 664556

Date: 19 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you know we are all facing extraordinary challenges at this time and the situation is placing pressure on all parts of society. Our staff have been doing all they can to keep our schools open or partially open since this crisis began and I would like to pay tribute to their remarkable commitment. They have been extraordinary and we will continue to play our part over the coming weeks.

As you may be aware, the government made several very important decisions yesterday evening (18 March) about schools. There will be further detail to follow but I wanted to ensure you had as much information as possible as early as possible.

The government has advised schools in England to close, except for certain groups of children, from this Friday afternoon (20 March) onwards as a further measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. No date has been set for when schools will reopen to pupils. However from Monday we will continue to provide childcare to the children of frontline workers and those deemed to be vulnerable. For children in these groups we have also been asked to try to remain open through the Easter holidays, and will do our best to achieve this.

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to let us know if you would be classed as a frontline worker and if you intend to send your child to school from Monday 23 March onwards. The government has not yet confirmed what the roles are deemed to be, but we are anticipating that they may include:

- Any NHS staff
- Police, Firefighters and Ambulance workers
- Supermarket staff and delivery drivers
- School staff – both teaching and non-teaching
- Care home staff
- Armed Forces

In order to allow us to plan for the number of children we will need to care for, if you are a key worker who needs to use this childcare, please confirm this to your child's school by 10am tomorrow morning. You can do this by emailing the following details to [info@airedaleacademy.com](mailto:info@airedaleacademy.com), or telephoning the main school office on 01977 664555:

Name of child:

Year group:

Name(s) of parent(s)/carer(s):

Parent(s)/carer(s) occupation(s):

Details of whether you require childcare:

- Every day during the week
- On specific days in the week
- On a varying pattern during the week

It would help us to manage the volume of calls if you could email this information. However, if you need to speak to us by phone, telephone lines will remain open until 5.30pm today and will open again in the morning.

During this period of emergency childcare, if your child or someone in your household develops symptoms of coronavirus, you will need to keep them away from school for 14 days in accordance with the government guidance.

In line with our values, we will approach this situation with bravery and resilience. It is essential that we all pull together to support our emergency services and key workers, and we will do our part, but I hope you will also recognise the difficult times schools and their staff now face. We are being called on to provide emergency childcare when for many of our staff their first thought will be to remain at home with their own families and children: so we too will need your support. You can help us by minimising your call on our limited resources, so children who do not fall into the groups listed above remain at home with appropriate care. There may also be partners who work from home or other non-elderly family members who could provide support with childcare. I must stress schools are closed for public health reasons and this childcare is an emergency measure only. Please support our staff and each other by respecting the need for key workers to have access to appropriate childcare at this time and only sending your child if no other alternative is possible.

Thank you for your support during this difficult period.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Fairhurst'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'E' and 'F'.

**E Fairhurst**  
Chief Executive  
Northern Ambition Academies Trust