

Our Ref: Covid19(6)/HS/KJR/MS/CS

20th March 2020

Dear Colleague,

Further to the update you received this morning, thank you for all you are doing in response to the DfE key worker specification. The information requested earlier regarding school closure has been received and I am grateful for your swift responses to this.

Next steps and action:

School contingency planning

The vast majority of Lincolnshire Schools are open and serving their community as required by the DfE on Monday.

For the very small number of schools where this is not possible, schools are arranging for the vulnerable children and the children of key workers to be looked after at a local school. We are very grateful to you as a community of school leaders for working together in this way. This is the only sustainable approach for a large rural county and following discussion with the DfE, we will be formalising this approach.

From Monday, all schools will need to inform us of any site closures and the subsequent local arrangements that have been put in place for the identified cohort of pupils. Please use the attached form to inform us of these changes and email to educationteam@lincolnshire.gov.uk before 12 noon the day before closing, to allow us to manage the transport implication of the arrangements.

Transport

With the exception of special schools, school transport will run as normal next week. If the transport providers have staffing challenges we will deal with this on an individual basis for next week. Please highlight to your parents that our intention is to provide transport as usual but they should prepare for a minority of routes to be affected whilst we respond to these extraordinary circumstances. Your support with managing this message to parents would be very much appreciated at this time.

Special schools - we will be in contact with you over the next few days to confirm arrangements.

Cluster arrangements

As we mentioned this morning, schools will need to work with partners within the clusters they have to build in resilience to remaining open for children and young

people. The LA is having conversations with CEOs of larger MATs and will continue to work on this next week.

Over the next few days, legislative change will alter the powers of the Local Authority to continue to support you all.

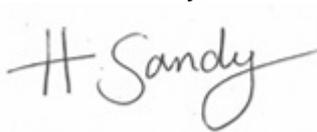
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Special schools - we will be in contact with you over the next few days to confirm arrangements.

My sincere thanks and appreciation for your on-going partnership working.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Sandy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Heather Sandy
Executive Director for Children's Services
Lincolnshire County Council