

2 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In line with government advice, the vast majority of our pupils are being kept at home. Here we outline the main things that parents and carers need to be aware of about our provision over the coming weeks.

Supporting our community

Given the challenging circumstances that all schools and academies face at this time, as we have already advised, we have been supporting parents at North Birmingham Academy by providing provision for a small number of their pupils in the governments identified groups.

The combined number of pupils here is still low as most of our parents and carers are choosing to keep their children at home in line with advice that school should only be used if no safe alternative is available. As has been made clear in the latest government guidance, smaller groups of pupils in schools and academies are considered to carry a lower risk.

As an E-ACT academy, North Birmingham Academy also follow stringent safeguarding and welfare processes, and our staff benefit from having close working relationships with other trust schools.

Our provision over the Easter holidays

We will continue to support the children of key workers and our most vulnerable pupils over the Easter holidays. Parents and carers can also collect their free school meals from the academy during this time. It is anticipated that North Birmingham Academy will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

Please be aware of fraudulent free school meal emails

We have been made aware of fraudulent emails claiming to be from the Department for Education being sent to the parents of children in receipt of free school meals. If you have received such an email, which will typically contain a request for bank details, please do not respond and delete it immediately.

For pupils in academy

We are taking the following precautions:

- We are keeping class sizes and pupil gatherings as small as possible.
- All pupils are encouraged to frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.



NORTH BIRMINGHAM ACADEMY 395 College Road, Erdington Birmingham B44 0HF
T: 0121 373 1647 E: NBA.Enquiries@E-ACT.org.uk W: <https://northbirminghamacademy.e-act.org.uk/>

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Registration number 652 6376
Registered office address: The Orangery, 28 Headlands, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN15 7HP

- We are carrying out deeper cleans throughout the academy day in line with the latest government guidance.
- If a pupil is unwell, they will be moved to a safe, isolated room until their parents can collect them.

Arrangements for pupils at home

Staff who are not currently based in the academy are working remotely and setting classwork online and through work packs. We will be in regular contact with parents and carers to discuss your child's progress.

GCSE/A Level examinations will not be taking place this year

I would like to reassure you that we will be doing everything in our power to ensure our pupils are awarded the qualifications they deserve and have worked so hard for. We are working closely with the Department for Education and the Standards and Testing Agency, and we will be in touch with parents and carers as soon as we have any more information on the process by which our pupils will receive their marks.

Supporting your child's mental health during this period of uncertainty

We will soon be sharing resources with you to help support your child's mental health during this time. In the meantime, we have highlighted four practical things you can do to support your child:

- Look out for any changes in behaviour: young people may respond to stress in different ways - have you noticed any changes in their emotional state or physical behaviours?
- Provide clear information about the situation: talk openly about what is happening and provide honest answers to any questions they have. Also explain what is being done to keep them and their loved ones safe.
- Acknowledge concerns: young people will be hearing things from friends and through social media. Talk to them about what is going on, listen to them and acknowledge their concerns.
- Create a new routine: routine provides reassurance and an increased feeling of safety, especially if they are not in academy. Make a plan for the day or week that includes time for learning, physical activity and relaxing.

For more detailed guidance, visit gov.uk by clicking [here](#).

Keeping your child safe online

We understand that some parents and carers may be feeling anxious about the fact that your child is likely to be spending more time online over the coming weeks. The websites below contain expert support and practical tips on keeping your child safe online:



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- [Thinkyouknow](#)
- [Internet matters](#)
- [Parent info](#)

You can find more information on gov.uk by clicking [here](#).

If you or your child start to feel unwell over the coming weeks

If in the coming weeks someone in your household is advised to self-isolate by the NHS, please let us know as soon as possible using the email address absent@e-act.org.uk. We will need your child's name, year group and the academy they attend. The latest guidance from the NHS can be found [here](#).

Thank you

We find ourselves in uncertain times, yet our pupils and families, our staff and our wider communities have pulled together despite the challenges we face. We are being reminded every day of just how fortunate we are to serve such a special community.

Thank you for your continued support of the academy.

Yours faithfully

Philip Lloyd
Headteacher



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