

Swanland Education Trust

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Dear Parents and Carers

Mr Chris Huscroft
Chief Executive Officer

As always, I do hope that you are all keeping well during this very unique time in our lifetime.

Over the past couple of days there has been increased discussion around the use of 'online teaching' in our schools. I wanted to write to you to explain the trust and its school's stance on this matter.

Firstly, I can assure you that we considered this option from the outset of the situation and spent much time talking with our own staff and local schools from within the school's own cluster about the possibility.

As soon as the government made their announcement that they had decided to close schools to all children other than those whose parents are key workers or are vulnerable, they made it very clear that the role of schools had changed for the foreseeable future and that we would no longer be educating children but providing care for those who needed it most.

As a trust, we mobilised staff quickly to ensure that there would be some provision to ensure that children, who were not going to be in attendance at school, had access to learning from home. We have continued to provide this along with suggestions of how children can access, independently other online activities. Your schools will have communicated how they will give you access to this information and will continue to update this, allowing for consolidation of previous learning and keeping up with the basics.

Myself along with your school's leaders are fully aware of the concerns that you may have about your children falling behind. Please be reassured that once all the children are back in their schools our staff will pick up where we left off with their learning – do remember ALL children across the country will be in exactly the same position – even those who are currently in school; they are not being 'taught' either.

We are sure it will come as no surprise that our staff who are also parents working from home, would struggle to be available for teaching online as they need to care for and home educate their own children too. In addition to this they are busy preparing other opportunities for your children to learn whilst at home and maintaining contact with you and your children via whatever means each school has established.

Therefore, for the reasons given above we will not be doing any online teaching. We have discussed the merits of this, at length, and are of the opinion that it is not an appropriate or feasible way to conduct learning for our children at this time – this is also the conclusion cluster schools and those in the wider Local Authority.

Once again please be reassured that you are not alone in feeling the pressure of your children falling behind; they are in exactly the same position of all other children and will not be any more disadvantaged by what is happening currently and once they are all back in school we will pick up from their relative starting points and continue their education in school.

We hope that this helps. If you do feel that your child needs specific support – please do let your child's school know, they will talk to their staff about how we might best provide this.

Yours sincerely
Chris Huscroft
CEO

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Chris Huscroft". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.