



To: All Headteachers

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Ask For: Mr Matt Dunkley
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Dear Colleague

Last night's announcement by the Prime Minister has again changed the context within which we are all working and will have heightened anxieties amongst staff and families. I know leading your school community through these turbulent times is challenging for you. If you need to speak to anyone about the challenges you are facing, please feel free to contact your Improvement Adviser or Area Education Officer. I would like to thank you again for everything you are doing and for remaining open.

Again, today all but a handful of schools were open to the children of key workers and vulnerable pupils. The numbers of children and young people attending reduced in many cases today, indicating more families have been able to make safe arrangements for their child's care. However, we anticipate the level of need will change as this outbreak continues and stresses come into the system from several directions. We know, for example that the blue light services and NHS are redeploying staff to front line operations, something which is likely to increase demand for childcare. It is important, therefore, that our pre-school settings and schools remain positioned to meet the future call for support and are able to open their doors to children.

We are working on the practical operation of hub schools in the event that these are needed. Colleagues are talking with those schools that indicated they may be able to open as a hub. The general sense is that most schools are working to continue providing a service for families, which is absolutely where we would like to be. However, we need contingencies in place. We are still keen to listen to schools and interested in hearing from anyone else who is delivering a hub model or is interested in being part of the conversation. Please contact your Senior Primary or Secondary School Adviser if you have anything to share or want to be involved. More information will follow this week on the proposals.

Thank you for completing the returns to the LA at lunchtime today. Please do this

again tomorrow. As indicated yesterday the information being collected may vary as events unfold. We are using the information you send, it is vital to our planning.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Dunkley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Matt Dunkley
Corporate Director
Children, Young People and Education