

Date: 20/11/20

Lead: Rebecca Meacham, Compliance & Safeguarding Officer

## **COVID 19 Update**

We have received high levels of communication regarding the position of Beacon Hill Academy in this current climate. As a result, we would like to provide the following update for reassurance to our stakeholders that we are acting in compliance with government and Public Health England (PHE) guidance. As per previous correspondence, we aim to be honest and transparent in all our communication. All information is easily accessible via our Trust and Academy websites.

Following the Government's national decision to reopen education establishments during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Dudley Academies Trust has continuously prioritised the safety and wellbeing of our educational community. It remains extremely important that learners can continue to attend Beacon Hill Academy in a supportive and safe environment as directed.

We undertake thorough risk assessments and implement systems of control set out in the Public Health England (PHE) guidance. The outcome of these assessments determines the level of control and protective measures required to mitigate risk for our learners. It is Dudley Academies Trust primary objective to provide confidence that we are managing this risk effectively.

We have implemented a range of protective measures including some of the following (this list is not exhaustive):

- Those individuals who are clinically and extremely vulnerable are supported with individual risk assessments.
- The implementation of face coverings for all learners, staff and visitors, in the academy, where social distancing is not possible (for example when moving around in corridors and communal areas).
- Promoting behaviours that reduce the spread of COVID-19 such as social distancing and minimising group activities.
- Maintaining healthy environments through regimented cleaning regimes and hygiene measures such as hand sanitising and surface cleansing.
- Maintaining healthy operations through one-way systems, phased ingress and egress, breaks and bubble implementation.
- Preparing for when someone gets sick through awareness, training, notification, isolation protocols, monitoring and support for return to education settings

There is an expectation that over the course of the pandemic, learners, teachers and business support staff are likely to contract symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or be in

contact with those who have been identified through our in house rapid systematic track and trace system. We are confident that we have robust planning and response arrangements in place, developed in collaboration with PHE, Department for Education (DfE) and the local authority for when this happens to our community from the spread of COVID-19.

Strict monitoring of local COVID-19 data in our community is also a priority, allowing us to make informed decisions with regard to risk through comprehensive tracking of community transmission. Daily decisions are driven with regard to policy and strategic changes required to mitigate spread.

Keeping our academies operational is important however, safety takes absolute priority and with that in mind academy year groups have been isolated for the protection of everyone, reverting back to remote learning and education resources to mitigate loss of learning in a safe environment. In due course, the pandemic may lead to the need for all academy settings in our community to close, as is starting to become prevalent locally. To help reassure our community, clear communication and openness is visible through our media forums and websites to ensure critical information is conveyed with regard to the following:

- Number of positive cases and where necessary how positive cases/outbreaks have impacted year groups/bubbles.
- Promotion of healthy behaviours that reduce the spread of COVID-19 as detailed above.
- Publication of NHS Public Health England and the Department for Education resources in accessible formats to educate with regard to COVID-19 and healthy practices.
- Addendum to our Behaviour policy establishing criteria for when the academy will suspend in-person learning to stop or slow the spread of COVID-19, as well as transparent guidelines for when to resume in-person learning.
- Supporting our most vulnerable learners through education provision and welfare.

If you any questions or concerns, please to not hesitate to contact us via [helpline@beaconhillacademy.org.uk](mailto:helpline@beaconhillacademy.org.uk).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued co-operation and to thank our learners for showing great vigilance in their actions, helping to keep our academy a safe learning environment for all.