



## GLENWOOD SCHOOL

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Dear Parents & Carers

10<sup>th</sup> February 2022

As you know over the last few weeks we have had to take some difficult decisions to close the school to different year groups on particular days due to staffing shortages caused by Coronavirus. We appreciate that this is frustrating for parents and can cause issues with work and childcare. We wanted to reassure you that we only take this decision where it is absolutely necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of your children. In the information below we have tried to explain how and why we have taken these decisions.

We will only use a partial closure where the number of staff absent means that we are unable to provide adequate supervision in classrooms and around the school site to keep pupils safe. In considering this we take into account that some pupils have to have 1:1 support allocated due to either behaviour, medical or learning needs and that all lessons have to be supervised by either a Qualified Teacher or a Higher Level Teaching Assistant.

We have tried to have least impact on those pupils that are sitting formal examinations this year, prioritising Year 10 and 11 pupils to be in school.

We have explored the option of employing temporary staff through an agency and we do currently have some agency staff supporting us, however despite being DBS checked, agency staff are unable to be alone with pupils and therefore do not always count towards staff/pupil ratios.

We have explored the possibility of joining up classes, however we do not have large enough classrooms to accommodate double groups safely without putting both pupils and staff at greater risk of catching Covid through a lack of distancing or adequate ventilation.

Before considering any school closure to a year group we consult with the Chair of Governors and notify the Local Authority.

We will always try to give 24 hours' notice of a school closure.

Remote learning is always provided. This is done through a mixture of pre-printed work (sent home with pupils the day before) or through online learning links e-mailed out to pupils each day. There are also online platforms for reading, maths and science where teachers set specific assignments to be completed which pupils can access from home. By providing a range of work we hope that all pupils will be able to engage in some remote learning.

Details of how to log in to these platforms and how to access your child's e-mail are attached.

We appreciate the support that we have received from parents and carers so far and thank you for your ongoing support whilst we continue to navigate the pandemic. Our priority remains balancing the safety and well-being of pupils along with ensuring their continued educational provision.

Mrs J Payne - Headteacher



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