



**Oliver Burwood**

DNEAT Chief Executive Officer  
Diocesan House  
109 Dereham Road, Easton  
Norwich NR9 5ES  
www.dneat.org

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We look forward to welcoming all children back to DNEAT academies from 8 March. Your academy will contact you soon with specific arrangements, including any information about drop off and pick up timings.

DfE guidance is available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-covid-19>

I wanted to reiterate a couple of key points as we all look forward to the return of more pupils to the classroom. Firstly, safety of everyone at school remains our number one priority. Headteachers are currently looking at all the guidance in relation to the safe opening to all pupils on 8 March. They will then work with staff in school to assess risks and plan any mitigation needed to reduce risks further. They have a good starting point here as this is the process they followed when schools re-opened to all pupils in September.

One of the key ways that our academies keep children safe is by following this system of controls:

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend the school.
- 2) Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances.
- 3) Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
- 4) Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- 5) Maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents.
- 6) Consider how to minimise contact across the site and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
- 7) Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.

*Faith in Success*



We would like to thank all parents across the Trust for their involvement, support and patience in relation to (point) number one. Although we would anticipate the need to close bubbles due to positive cases will reduce over time this will still happen and we would ask you to continue to play your part by reporting at the earliest opportunity positive cases to your school. Where bubbles are sent home academies will switch to remote learning and plans for this will be shared with you.

You will have picked up in the press that attendance at school will be mandatory for all pupils, except those who are clinically extremely vulnerable and shielding at home, from 8 March. We will be following usual attendance procedures from 8 March. We do understand that for some families there may be specific barriers to attendance and we would ask that you talk to your academy now if this is the case for your family. We can then work with you to help remove these barriers. The rules on not taking holiday in term time remain in place. If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable we should already be aware, unless your child was added to the shielding list recently. If this is the case, again please speak to your child's academy who will give further support and guidance.

We hope that by working together for a safe return of pupils we can maximise the time children spend in school up until Easter and beyond. If you do have any further questions, please contact your child's academy in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver Burwood  
*DNEAT Chief Executive Officer*