

# Eastfield Primary Academy

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Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would just like to take the time to thank all of the you for following the new arrangements for children entering and exiting school today.

It was with great sadness that I have had to stop parents coming onto the school site - it is not a decision that I wanted to make. I do believe that parents should be able to take their child to their classroom door, to have the opportunity to talk to staff regarding any information or concerns that they wish to pass on, and know that their child has gone into their classroom, happy.

I reviewed our arrangements for children coming onto and exiting the site last week, as the nation went in to Lockdown; do I close the site to parents or could we continue to stay open? I felt very strongly that we should stay open to parents, and so I asked that you wear a face covering on site. As an academy, we are a private building, and as such, I have every right to ask visitors and parents to follow both school and Trust policy.

I would very much like to thank those parents that wore face coverings on the school site, and those parents who were exempt from wearing a face covering or simply did not want to wear one, who worked with us to find a different solution.

However, some parents have come onto the school site and removed their face coverings once they came past myself and Mrs Pell on the gate and yesterday, staff members were verbally assaulted and threatened. This is not something that I can condone - whilst staff and I, have worked incredibly hard to safeguard children and parents, I also have a duty to safeguard staff.

I can only repeat, that this is not a decision that I have taken lightly or ultimately wanted to make. I will of course review my decision in time, in line with government and Trust guidance and the local infection rate.

Can I please ask that whilst you are outside of school you maintain social distancing, you arrive as close to your child's entry/exit time, and you stand away from the gates so that children can enter/exit the school safely.

Thank you,

K A Thompson