

Wednesday, 16th September 2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

I am writing this letter following the increased measures put in place by the Government to prevent the spread of COVID-19, namely the rule of 6, and to remind our parents and pupils of their responsibilities when in and around any Cidari Academy.

Firstly, thank you for your support during the return to school. The past six months have been challenging for all of us, not least our pupils and families. I thank everyone associated with our academies for the commitment they have shown to fully return to school in September. Having the children back with their friends, learning and having a safe environment, as close to normal, has been our aim all along, and I am pleased to see that pupils and families have settled back into our new routines so well.

As a Trust we have worked closely with our Headteachers and Senior Leaders, to put in place a wide range of measures to make our Academies the safest they can possibly be. These include amongst others:

- one-way systems
- clear signage and instructions for all entering and using our sites
- changes to arrangements for dropping of and picking up
- the creation of distinct bubbles for pupils and staff
- adjustments to the curriculum and the way in which lessons are delivered
- increased PPE and hand washing/ sanitising
- increase in cleaning and sanitisation throughout our buildings
- additional checks on those entering our sites
- social distancing of 1m plus wherever possible
- a local COVID-19 action plan and risk assessment
- requesting that there is no congregating at the school gates
- Expectations around the use of face masks including encouraging the use of masks by parents at drop of and pick up in instances where 2m social distancing is not possible

It is clear from the recent national data and the implementation of the 'rule of 6', that we are at a critical stage in preventing the spread of the virus. Your support is vital to ensuring that the measures we have put in place are effective, in protecting the safety, health, and wellbeing of your children, your families and our staff.

Government guidance states that you should continue to avoid close contact and remain socially distant from anyone you do not live, with or who is not in your support bubble – even inside other people's homes. Failure to do this puts our entire Academy community at risk.

It is critical that everybody observes the following key behaviours:

HANDS - Wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds.

FACE - Wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.

SPACE - Stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings or increasing ventilation indoors).

As a result, I must reaffirm the following and ask that you follow any COVID related measures that your Academy has in place. Critically these are:

No congregating at gates or other access points.

Government guidance now makes it clear that groups of more than 6 (including children) are illegal. Congregating in groups of more than 6 outside school breaches this regulation, whilst also making it uncomfortable for those already anxious, or who are more vulnerable to access the Academy. Our staff will ask groups to disperse, however our priority must always be within our site, and if concerns continue, other authorities will be called to address any persistent issues in surrounding pavement areas. Unfortunately, these restrictions will make most informal face to face conversations with staff impractical. If you need to discuss anything with your class teacher, or any other member of staff, we request that you contact the school by telephone or email.

Following the guidance.

Throughout the school day we are modelling best practice and behaviours regarding handwashing/sanitising, not touching faces and social distancing - Hands, Face, Space. This includes wearing masks or visors by adults, where social distancing cannot be maintained. We expect these behaviours to be mirrored by our entire Academy community, especially when in and around our sites. In addition to the core message outlined above, the government guidance is clear. Where social distancing of 2 metres cannot be maintained, adults should wear a face mask. This is our expectation of persons dropping off and picking up where social distancing is not possible.

Appropriate behaviour.

Aggressive or intimidating language or behaviour will not be tolerated. We understand that the situation with COVID-19 raises anxieties amongst our entire community, but we expect that all will treat each other with respect and dignity, in relation to these matters. We have a responsibility to everyone using our Academies, to ensure that guidance and best practice is always being followed. No exceptions. If action is required to ensure this is maintained, we expect the support and compliance of our parents and pupils, so that the measures we have put in place remain effective in protecting the health and wellbeing of your children and our staff.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding the measures in place at your child's Academy, please raise these in the first instance with the Academy directly. The best method will be to email or telephone. We will endeavour to reply to you in a timely manner, but please be aware, that due to operational reasons and local circumstances, that this reply may take longer than 24 hours to be returned to you.

Finally, thank you once again for your continued support at this most challenging time. As a Trust, we are committed to providing a high quality educational and pastoral offer to all of our pupils, and to closely work together to build success for all.

Yours faithfully

Peter Ashworth CEO

CEO - Cidari Multi Academy Trust

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The logo for CIDARI, featuring the word "CIDARI" in a stylized, bold, sans-serif font. The "C" and "I" are connected, and the "D" is a simple vertical bar. The letters are white and set against a red background that is part of a larger graphic design on the right side of the page.