



24 March 2020

Dear parents/carers,

I am writing to you today to inform you that I have made the very difficult decision to close the school.

Durants school will be closed on Wednesday 25th March and will remain closed for the rest of the term. At this stage, we do not have a date for reopening.

Even though we do not have a confirmed case of COVID 19 I believe all children should stay home.

Following on from the Prime Ministers announcement last night, The Government has now clarified that in special schools the leaders of the school should make a decision, bearing in mind the health and safeguarding needs of individual pupils.

The safety and wellbeing of our school community remains paramount and senior leaders continue to feel that there are significant risks for both our pupils and our staff.

- Medical advice is that children should maintain the same ‘socially distancing’ regime as adults. This is simply not possible in our school where many of our students do not understand about personal space and where adults and children need to work in close contact. Adults need to maintain close physical contact to support learning, to help students move around the school, to support positive behaviour and to help with personal hygiene. This creates a situation where it is more likely that any virus will spread. These are risks which we accept and manage in normal times through good hygiene measures but in the extraordinary context of COVID-19 the level of risk is not acceptable.
- Staffing ratios are vital and it is also vital to have consistent staffing to support our children and young people. As staff have been absent to self-isolate or to care for others the level of staff cover has already reached a point which causes concern. Having children in school with inconsistent staffing and routine will leave them distressed and confused and may mean that we cannot safely respond to any issues.

I have therefore decided, in collaboration with senior leaders that the school should remain closed. I have kept the local authority informed and they are aware of this decision. I will keep the situation under review.

I do know that this is a very difficult situation for parents particularly as none of us knows how long the outbreak will continue. Teachers will be contacting you regularly via phone

DURANTS SCHOOL

LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD – EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**DURANTS – UPPER SCHOOL
HIGH STREET, SOUTHGATE, N14 6BN**

HEADTEACHER

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calls and email. We have updated the website with learning resources and class teachers have sent individual class packs home.

We will make every effort to help you continue to educate your child at home and to provide other advice and support.

We will re-open as soon as we possibly can and will let you know as soon as there is any clear information about this. The school website will be updated regularly.

I look forward to being able to welcome the students and staff back to school.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Carli

Headteacher

