



June 9 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

LDST's approach throughout COVID-19 has been to prioritise the safety of our pupils, staff and families. Our schools have been open for a small number of critical worker children over the last 11 weeks, who have been kept safe in their small groups due to the stringent measures put in place. Other children have continued to be educated at home through home learning pack, online learning activities and regular communication with teachers.

Over the past three weeks, all LDST schools have worked with Health and Safety experts and in conjunction with LAS and Unions, to plan for the wider re-opening of schools. Robust risk assessments have been carried out and used to write detailed re-opening plans that will continue to ensure the safety of pupils and staff as more children return to school. Plans are in place and schools are ready, as and when this can happen.

However, I am sure that you will have heard in the media this weekend, reports of the R rate in the North West being above 1 – a level that the Government has consistently informed us is too high. You will also be aware that the Secretary of State for Education, today announced that there is no longer an expectation that schools will reopen one month before the end of the summer term 2020 as previously planned for further groups of pupils.

So despite the tireless work to prepare to welcome some children back to educational settings from Monday June 15, the Trust Board has now made a decision to delay any wider school opening planned **until June 22**. This will enable us to take account of the local context and the public health reports that will ensure we open when it is safe to do so, as well as giving time needed to adjust to the Government's revised plans announced today.

Please be assured that we will continue to listen to scientific advice and follow the guidance of Public Health in order to keep pupils, staff and families safe. The Trust Board's decisions will always be safety focused and evidence-led.

Thank you for your patience and support in such turbulent times.

Prayers and best wishes to you and your families



Mrs L Kwissa

Chief Executive Officer