

Coronavirus Update (COVID-19)

ICAT guiding principles for schools - Castle Hill, High Park and Milton School

March 2020

Due to the unprecedented times dealing with the impact of the Coronavirus threat the ICAT Board of Directors have created a set of overarching principles when deciding whether our schools should remain open or close. These principles have been devised to offer a clear directive of our main considerations throughout this difficult time. We feel it is important to be as transparent as possible in offering reassurances that support for pupils, families, parents, carers and staff are at the centre of all decision-making.

The agreed ICAT outcomes are that:

- All pupils and staff are safe and well
- ICAT Education for each pupil continues whether the school building is open or closed
- All Health Care Plans and EHCP's continue to be implemented
- Normal robust safeguarding procedures continue to be applied effectively
- Stakeholders are fully informed throughout the process (Stakeholders include Directors, Members, LGBs, staff, Local Authority and parents)

The key defining principles are that:

- The vulnerabilities and specific needs of identified cohorts of pupils are paramount
- Pupil needs are considered on a case by case basis
- The safest place for every pupil is identified
- Robust protocols are in place to continue the education for all pupils and implementation of EHCP's and safeguarding plans
- The school education system continues even if the buildings are closed
- Parents/Carers/families are given a choice whether to send their children to school
- ICAT and its schools work in consultation with all external organisations and stakeholders to ensure the continued education, safety and well-being of the whole-school learning communities in ICAT
- Weekly review with key stakeholders of the ongoing situation and decisions made
- Weekly update report for Governors

This set of principles will be regularly monitored by the ICAT Directors and Principals of schools including the following considerations:

- DfE / RSC/LA directives
- The impact of self-isolation and social distancing
- Staff numbers and availability over time
- Transport considerations
- Individual pupil/family and staff circumstances over time
- Staff personal commitments/responsibilities which inform their availability for work