



GLENWOOD SCHOOL

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Dear Parents & Carers

29th February 2024

I'm afraid we have had to make a difficult decision to close the school to different year groups on particular days due to staffing shortages:

Friday 1st March – Year 10 not in school; Monday 4th March – Year 7 not in school; Tuesday 5th March – Year 8 not in school; Wednesday 6th March – Year 9 not in school

We appreciate that this is frustrating for parents and carers and can cause issues with work and childcare. We wanted to reassure you that we only take this decision where it is absolutely necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of your children. Below we have tried to explain how and why we have taken this decision.

We will only use a partial closure where the number of staff absent means that we are unable to provide adequate supervision in classrooms and around the school site to keep pupils safe. In considering this we take into account that some pupils have to have 1:1 support allocated due to either behaviour, medical or learning needs and that all lessons have to be supervised by either a Qualified Teacher or a Higher Level Teaching Assistant. We have tried to have least impact on those pupils that are sitting formal examinations this year, prioritising Year 11 pupils to be in school.

We have considered the option of employing temporary staff through an agency and we do currently have some agency staff supporting us however, despite being DBS checked, agency staff are unable to be alone with pupils and therefore do not always count towards staff/pupil ratios.

We have explored the possibility of joining up classes however, we do not have large enough classrooms to accommodate double groups safely.

Before considering any school closure to a year group we consult with the Chair of Governors and notify the Local Authority and will always try and give 24 hour's notice of a school closure.

Remote learning is always provided. This is done through a mixture of pre-printed work (sent home with pupils the day before) or through online learning, available on our website. By providing a range of work we hope that all pupils will be able to engage in some remote learning. We appreciate the support that we have always received from parents and carers during difficult times, and thank you for your ongoing support. Our priority remains balancing the safety and well-being of pupils along with ensuring their continued educational provision.

We will review the situation early next week and if we are able to reverse this decision we will let you know, or if we need to extend this provision for a further week.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Payne
Headteacher



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