



January 8th, 2021

Update from Nikki Edwards, Trust CEO

Consistent approach is vital for all in our Trust Family

There is that phenomenon we often see where a word, over time, loses its power and meaning.

Awesome, once reserved for the most grand and inspiring occurrences, people or actions, now inhabits a more mundane world.

"How was your workout today?" "Awesome!"

Or **surreal**, which is no longer exclusive to the 20th Century fantasy-based art movement and is now used for anything mildly unusual.

"It was raining then the sun came out. Surreal!!"

I have similar thoughts about **unprecedented**.

Since the pandemic became real for us last March, we have been told every event subsequent to that has been 'unprecedented'.

In a literal sense, many of these events DO represent uncharted waters but while the pandemic is a singular event which leads us down different paths, what I have seen across the Trust is that we don't need to find a new strategy each time a new issue presents itself.

Since last March our teams in each school have been reviewing procedures, keeping people safe and been willing to be adaptable as things change. This has served us well and will continue to do so until we reach the end and normality returns.

The detail may be different but our overall approach of being resilient, caring and mindful of others is always the same.

We began 2021 with hopes of vaccines and fresh starts.

As has happened before, our plans had to be altered but yet again you, as school leaders and colleagues, have stepped up, taken a deep breath and started to plan and implement again.

Schools and leadership teams have been reviewing risk assessments in light of the current context we are working in and daily guidance continues to be received from the DfE, supporting the detail behind current working environments for all.

The challenge we have is getting it right while being very aware that there is a human element to every decision we make. How will it impact colleagues? Pupils? Families?

As reflective people and caring professionals, we are always thinking about how it could be done better and this has certainly been the case with me.

I am acutely aware that our children are facing a challenge that has not faced other generations and all decisions are informed by this.

We also must support each other and be strong. Perhaps by starting the day with a moment to think about what we are grateful for would help each of us remain positive and this can be shared with others.

And if I may be allowed to reflect on the beginning of this blog, you are all AWESOME ... but in this case the word is wholly appropriate!

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Nikki Edwards

