



Ruskin Mill Trust Group Statement on Planning for the COVID-19 strain of Coronavirus – updated 24 March 2020

Dear all,

Following the Government's announcement on 23 March 2020 to introduce further lockdown measures and the increasingly urgent need to reduce social contact across society to help reduce the spread of Coronavirus, Ruskin Mill Trust is implementing the following actions with immediate effect:-

- All children and young adults who attend one of our day special schools/colleges and/or residential provision will be risk-assessed in consultation with parents and the Local Authority to decide how best their child/young adult can be kept safe and their needs met.
- Children and young adults who would be at significant risk if their education, health and care provision and placement did not continue, namely those who could not safely be supported at home, will continue to attend their setting. Those whose needs can be safely met at home will return home.

Of course, for some of our children and young people (especially those accessing 52-week care), our provision is their only home and the safest place for them.

For the next 3 weeks we will:-

- Adjust our on-site provision-delivery for those remaining in our care. We are fortunate that Ruskin Mill Trust's Practical Skills Therapeutic Education (PSTE) curriculum lends itself to small class sizes and maximises outdoor learning opportunities. We will be increasing the outdoor timetable and, where safe to do so, reducing collective working to minimise social contacts. All appropriate infection control measures will be implemented.
- Provide distance-learning programmes to all pupils and students who return home, in line with each learner's current learning aims. This will include sending craft resources and learning aids to each learner to complete in their home.
- Provide outreach to every child or young person who has returned home.
- Ensure that each provision's on-call duty management system will remain in operation, including the designated safeguarding lead.

In line with the Government's advice, we will review the position in 3 weeks' time and hope to re-establish provision from the beginning of the Summer term.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your College Principal or Headteacher. Or, if you would like to speak to a member of the Ruskin Mill Trust Executive Team, please contact one of our Regional Directors:-

Dr Perdita Mousley – 07812 234 348 (Freeman College, Brantwood Specialist School, Clervaux Trust)

Tara Gratton – 07977 174 768 (Sunfield School and Children's Home, Coleg Plas Dwbl)

Oliver Cheney – 07813 234 659 (Ruskin Mill College, Glasshouse College, Argent College)

Above all, our priority remains the health and wellbeing of our whole community.

Yours sincerely,

Kimberly Downton

Chief Operating Officer

Business Continuity Coordinator

Ruskin Mill Trust Limited operates Ruskin Mill College, Coleg Plas Dwbl, Glasshouse College, Argent College and Freeman College and it oversees the operation of Sunfield Children's Home and School, Brantwood Specialist School, Clervaux Garden School and adult care services at Clervaux Trust

24 March 2020