

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
23 Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

7 January 2021

Dear Secretary of State

As the country enters another period of national lockdown, our school leaders and teachers are committed to providing a high-quality, structured programme of education for every child and young person in our care – a programme that focuses on their wellbeing as well as their academic outcomes.

We are also committed to planning for the future so that our pupils and our educators may return to school as soon as is safely possible. For this reason we ask the Government to prioritise teachers and support staff to receive Covid vaccinations.

We firmly share the Government's view that keeping schools open is in the best interests of children and young people – socially, emotionally and physically as well as academically. Although school leaders and teachers have been classified as key workers throughout the pandemic, they are not currently included in the priority groups for vaccination. The Government has, when announcing the new lockdown, emphasised the aim of reopening schools as soon as possible, but the vaccination plan in its current form does not support this aim.

Prioritising teachers and support staff to receive vaccinations would enable the *sustained* reopening of schools to happen sooner. Moreover, it would improve the educational and wellbeing prospects of millions of children across the country and would positively impact parents' ability to work.

We hope you will consider this letter in the open and constructive spirit in which it is written. We would be happy to discuss how we can work together to support the educational and wellbeing needs of children everywhere at this challenging time.

Yours sincerely



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