

Dear Head Teacher

We are writing to express our concerns on serious Health and safety issues in relation to Covid-19. Our Trade Union, GMB, has advised that, in the first instance, we write to you explaining we are not confident that our exposure to risk in contracting Covid-19 is being minimised in our workplace in the hope this can be addressed quickly and informally.

As you know, The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 require a risk assessment to be carried out to assess risks and identify control measures which can be put in place to either mitigate or minimise the risk, if it cannot be eliminated. A school is not just a school- it is a workplace and we have the right to feel as safe at work as anyone else.

As the country enters a national lockdown, it is clear things have changed since our school fully reopened in September. Infection rates are soaring and we are concerned that risk assessments completed prior to the full reopening of school do not reflect what is now happening or the experience of what has taken place in our school. We have seen X **staff/pupils self isolating/infected** and this would indicate current control measures are not working effectively. Specifically, we feel the following areas need to be looked at

(Delete or add where applicable)

- Class/bubble sizes are too big
- There is crossover of staff between bubbles
- Social distancing is not happening or possible between adults
- Parents are not adhering to social distancing
- Other examples may include issues with staffroom, lunch arrangements, cleaning being performed by non-cleaning staff etc

To ensure our safety at work, control measures should be put in place to protect us from risk and where necessary we need to be issued with PPE. Social distancing is a key factor in reducing transmission of Covid-19 and if this is not possible, proper PPE masks would help minimise this risk as face coverings do not provide the wearer with protection. Reducing the number of contacts would also reduce risk and we ask that you also look at this.

Further, we would appreciate it if you would provide us with regular information and updates on any risk as it occurs and speak to us directly about risks we are being exposed to.

Thank you for your time with this and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

GMB Members