



22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues,

### **Arrangements for Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 June – Extreme Heat (Red Alert)**

I am writing to update you on arrangements across the Lighthouse Schools Partnership in response to the Red Heat-Health Alert issued for our region on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. The Met Office is forecasting temperatures of 37–39°C. This alert indicates a significant risk to health across the population, with heightened risk for younger children. In light of this, all schools have reviewed whether it is safe to remain open.

While schools do not normally close in hot weather, these conditions are exceptional. We must be confident that environments are safe, risks can be effectively mitigated and safe staffing and supervision can be maintained. Where this cannot be assured, schools will not open.

Across many of our sites, there are significant challenges in managing this risk safely. These include buildings not designed for sustained extreme heat and without air conditioning, rapid heat build-up in occupied classrooms, limited ability to cool or ventilate spaces effectively, staffing pressures due to heat-related absence or travel disruption and increased risks for vulnerable pupils and staff.

We have therefore advised that schools will close on Wednesday and Thursday unless they can clearly demonstrate, through a robust risk assessment, that conditions can be managed safely. In practice, we expect that the majority of our schools will be closed. Each school will confirm its arrangements directly with families and staff. The safety of school trips will be considered on the same basis. All school trips and off-site activities will be cancelled, unless the risk assessment demonstrates that conditions can be managed safely or unless pupils are already at their destination and it is safe for the visit to continue.

Where schools are closed, learning will continue as advised by your school and further information will be provided on expectations and support. We will provide food vouchers to families in receipt of free school meals.

We recognise the disruption this may cause. However, this is a precautionary, short-term decision to protect the health and safety of pupils and staff during extreme conditions.

**Chief Executive: Dr G J Lewis**

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We will continue to monitor the situation and provide further updates if required.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Gary Lewis  
**Chief Executive**

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