



**Archibald First School**

Archibald Street  
Gosforth  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE3 1EB

Headteacher **Mrs R Turner**

0191 285 1957  
[admin@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:admin@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk)  
[www.archibaldfirstschool.org.uk](http://www.archibaldfirstschool.org.uk)

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great sadness that I am writing this letter. Throughout the whole lockdown period every decision that has been made has focused on our 344 children, you as parents and the 40 members of staff at school and their families. Not one decision made has been a personal one. Every decision made has taken into consideration everyone and all factors where possible.

Whilst I fully understand individual upset and frustration at not being allocated a place, it has been brought to my attention that some families are being approached, messaged or asked directly over social media to account for why they have been allocated a place.

- **This is completely unacceptable.**
- **This information is private and confidential.**

The general posts to wider audiences are also highly inappropriate and insensitive as you will have members of your year group communities who have been offered places based on specific circumstances that are not to be shared. No one has the right to make another parent feel uncomfortable and ask them to justify themselves.

Our Acceptable Use Policy also states;

*We ask that parents and families approach the school directly with any concerns and refrain from airing concerns about the school and its staff on social media sites. If the school is unaware of issues, then it cannot investigate and resolve those issues. In addition, the reputation of the school may be damaged and the integrity of its staff unnecessarily called into question. Posting negative comments on social media can cause damage and upset and are often counterproductive to pupils' education.*

If you wish to make contact, please contact school directly on [admin@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:admin@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk) and I will endeavour to answer any queries regarding individual circumstances. However, at no point will I have any discussions regarding other families or the decisions made for others.

The navigation of the last 11 weeks has been incredibly difficult for everyone. As Headteacher, I have worked within the remits given and with the full support of the staff, governing body, GST and Local Authority. Beyond this role, I am also a full time key worker, mum of two young children (with no key worker spaces allocated) and partner of a key worker working full time. I am there with you all in the same position with the same anxieties, difficulties and frustrations. I hope that we can continue to pull together to support each other in this incredibly difficult period.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Turner

**Having fun, achieving excellence.**

Successful learners. Confident individuals. Responsible citizens.