



National Society for Education in Art & Design
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Gavin Williamson
Education Secretary
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

22nd March 2020

Dear Mr Williamson,

I am writing on behalf of my members to ask for your reassurance that the safety of school staff, their pupils and the wider community will be your absolute priority as and when you decide to relax the current arrangements for closure.

Many of our members are school-teachers, working to ensure that children and their families are supported during the Covid-19 emergency. My members were concerned about the potential dangers of exposure to the virus and cross contagion long before schools were ordered to close. They have continued to work in schools supporting the families of key workers, despite fears that by doing so they may endanger their lives, and those of their families.

These are frightening times for all of us, and children and young people are amongst the most vulnerable in our society. Teachers are on the front line, doing everything that they can to protect them, to reduce their anxiety and to give them hope where there is only uncertainty.

As a TUC affiliated Trade Union we stand alongside our colleagues from the NASUWT and NEU in their calls for transparency and clear commitments to protecting the school workforce before schools are allowed to reopen. We fully support their position on this critical issue.

The NSEAD is a unique organisation – we are the only Education Trade Union that is also a subject association and a learned society. Consequently, our membership, and the wider community that we serve is diverse and influential across many sectors. We work with a wide range of partners in education and across the cultural and creative industries. The



Michele Gregson, General Secretary
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arrangements for the re-opening of schools are a matter of concern across our membership.

We ask for a clear undertaking to ensure that the questions raised by Kevin Courtney and Dr Mary Bousted of the NEU and the five key points set out by Dr Patrick Roach of the NASUWT will be fully addressed before any decision is made to reopen our schools.

Yours sincerely



Michele Gregson
General Secretary



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