



# ARK ACADEMY SCHOOLS BULLETIN

You may be aware that Ark has updated its COVID guidance for its schools relating to risk assessments, cleaning and absence management.

In summary, ARK has communicated to all their schools that:

- essentially they do not now need to assess and mitigate the Covid risk to pupils and staff
- they can bring an end to enhanced cleaning regimes in schools and return to 2019 levels
- they can now count all Covid absences towards sickness absence procedures, including for triggers etc.

**These changes have been made without any consultation or negotiation with any of the recognised trade unions.**

GMB believe there are serious concerns around the premature nature of these decisions; and that the practices now being proposed by the trust could potentially pose a risk to the education, health, safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff.

You can [read the full Joint Unions' statement](#) sent to Ark in response online.

## **What next?**

The Joint unions are meeting ARK on 12 May – we will issue an update following this meeting.

**If you & your colleagues would like GMB to come into your school and update you on key school support staff issues please [contact your region](#) and we will arrange to visit asap.**