

13th March 2020

RE: COVID-19 Update

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to keep you updated and assure you that the Trust is continuing to follow the latest advice from the Government and Public Health England (PHE) to help ensure the health and wellbeing of all our school communities.

The schools across the Trust continue to remain open as usual, as advised by the Government, and confirmed again yesterday afternoon by the Prime Minister. We continue to monitor the situation closely and should the guidance change and schools be advised to close; we have robust plans in place to ensure that we can continue to provide your children with access to their education and school work.

As you may be aware, the Government issued updated guidance yesterday. We are following this closely meaning that now, should your child exhibit even mild signs of COVID-19, which has been defined as a new, continuous cough or high temperature, you should ensure they self-isolate for a period of 7 days.

The Government has advised that anyone with concerns should visit 111 online to access advice here: <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19> rather than calling 111, due to the high demand of calls they are experiencing. As before, anyone with concerns about COVID-19 should **not attend their local GP Surgery or A&E**. We would also ask that you notify your school immediately, to allow to us to take any necessary steps.

You will of course want to know further details of the provisions being put in place if and when schools are instructed to close – all schools across the Trust have prepared their Education Continuity Plans in the event of a school closure and your school's Headteacher will be in touch with these plans in due course so we can be as prepared as possible for the eventuality.

I understand that for parents in particular this is a difficult time, especially in light of all the heightened media attention surrounding the issue. I just want to reassure you that we will continue to keep a watching brief on this ever-evolving situation and will keep you updated on all relevant and pertinent developments.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented public health event.

Yours sincerely,



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