



ST MARGARET WARD CATHOLIC ACADEMY



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01Z/Coronavirusinformation/DM/EP

Thursday 27th February 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

RE: CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

As you will be aware, there has been much coverage in the media recently regarding the Coronavirus and the impact it has had on a number of schools across the country, including in nearby Cheshire.

In light of this, I thought I should send you the following information and guidance which may be helpful to you. Obviously, this is an ever-changing picture so it is worth checking the most up to date information daily and the following guidance from Public Health England on steps you should be taking.

Please be assured that we are monitoring the situation, understand how fluid it is and recognise that advice may change. I will inform you of any changes as I get it. In school, since our deep clean in December, we have ensured that information is shared about thorough hand-washing and drying and have increased the frequency at which certain 'germ magnets', such as door handles, are cleaned.

Please read the guidance including that which is contained within the link below.

[Coronavirus](#)- latest advice - please read

Re: [COVID-19 Advice for schools and educational settings](#)

You may be aware that advice for travellers from affected areas has recently changed and it has come to our attention that this may affect children and staff returning from school trips. Please be aware that this is a fast-evolving situation and we will continue to share any new advice at the earliest opportunity.

As of today (27th February) advice for returning travellers is as follows;

1) If you have returned from the following areas since Wednesday 19th February, call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel, stay indoors and avoid contact with other people even if you do not have symptoms:

- Iran
- Specific lockdown areas in Northern Italy* as designated by the Government of Italy:
In the Lombardy Region:
Bertonico; Casalpusterlengo; Castelgerundo; Castiglione D'Adda; Codogno; Fombio; Maleo; San Fiorano; Somaglia; and Terranova dei Passerini
In the Veneto Region: Vò Euganeo
A map has been published to help detail the relevant areas.
- Daegu or Cheongdo (Republic of Korea)
- Hubei province, China (returned in the past 14 days)

If you require this information in a different format, please contact the school.



2) If you have returned from the following areas since February 19th:

- Northern Italy (see map)
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Laos
- Myanmar

Or If you have returned to the UK from any of the following areas in the last 14 days:

- Other parts of China outside Hubei province
- Thailand
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Hong Kong
- Taiwan
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Macau

You should stay indoors at home and avoid contact with other people immediately and call NHS 111 only if you develop symptoms.

Information for the public: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

Occasionally, one or more of your staff or pupils may be asked to self-isolate because they are a contact of a confirmed case or have been to the specified towns and regions in Italy or other specified countries. The student or staff member will be given specific advice from NHS 111. In this instance there is nothing further for the school to do. There is no need for schools to close.

Prevent the spread of infection

Make sure you and your children follow these general principles to prevent spreading any respiratory virus:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home
- If you're worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 – don't go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment

If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely



Mr D McKenna
Principal

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