



ST MARGARET WARD CATHOLIC ACADEMY



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Principal: Mr. D. McKenna B.Soc.Sc. MA. PGCE. NPQH.

01Z/Coronavirus/DM/EP

Friday 13th March 2020

RE: COVID-19 (coronavirus)

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you with regards to the COVID-19 outbreak. St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy is continuing to follow all the latest guidance from the government and Public Health England.

New guidance has been given from yesterday evening. If you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started. The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection.

If your child shows these symptoms they should self-isolate for 7-days. Full guidance on self-isolating can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Anyone who chooses to self-isolate will not be penalised in any way due to poor attendance.

The school has no plans to close, however, we will follow any advice that we are given to ensure we work as a community to combat the spread of this infection.

This includes following the advice to cancel all overseas trips until further notice. If your son or daughter was planning to go on a forthcoming overseas trip, the trip leader will be in touch with students and we will begin to refund payments throughout next week. We understand that this will be disappointing for your son or daughter but unfortunately recent events have now taken this beyond our control and the decisions have been taken to both ensure the safety of the students involved and protect public health. Domestic trips currently remain unaffected; however, we will be reviewing our risk assessments for any impending trips in light of recent advice.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-advises-schools-and-colleges-to-cancel-overseas-trips>

It is very important that we continue with the handwashing procedures that we have in place and hope you will encourage your child to do so at home. Some advice on handwashing can be found below:

How to wash your hands properly;

Wash your hands more often for 20 seconds with soap and hot water.

Watch this short NHS film for guidance:

- <https://youtu.be/bQCP7waTRWU>

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



The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

It appears that developments are changing by the day and I wish to reassure you, that should there be any change affecting the school we will inform you all as soon as possible. Thank you for your support during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely



Mr Dominic McKenna
Principal

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