



St Edward's School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

9th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

With a case of the coronavirus now having occurred in a local gym, we are receiving queries about attendance and we recognise and understand the concerns that parents and carers have.

St Edward's are continuing to monitor advice from Public Health England and the Department for Education, and will follow all guidance issued to keep the school as safe as possible for our students and staff. We continue to ask for your support in helping us to ensure that children and young people are not misinformed, or made to worry unnecessarily.

We have had no suspected cases of COVID-19 at St Edward's, and the guidelines advise there is no need to close the school or send other students or staff home, should there be a suspected case. Self-isolation is a measure that needs to be recommended by NHS 111, rather than the school, as they are best placed to evaluate the level of risk. If anyone has been in contact with a suspected case at school, no restrictions or special control measures are required while laboratory test results for COVID-19 are awaited. As a precautionary measure, the NHS are currently testing a very large number of people and the majority test negative. Therefore, if there was a suspected case, the only action the school would take is cleaning specific areas as advised by Public Health England, until the outcome of test results is known.

Should there be a case, the definition to be considered a contact of someone with COVID-19 includes:

- any student or staff member in close face-to-face or touching contact including those undertaking small group work (within 2 metres of the person for more than 15 minutes)
- talking with or being coughed on for any length of time while the individual is symptomatic
- anyone who has cleaned up any bodily fluids of the individual
- close friendship groups
- any student or staff member living in the same household as a confirmed case

If your child becomes unwell and believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 (either through travel or contact with a confirmed case) call NHS 111, or 999 in an emergency (if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk). They should not go to their GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

We will continue to update all parents and carers and to remind all members of our school community of the following sensible steps from the NHS, to help everyone to stay healthy:

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze. Then bin the tissue, and wash your hands, or use a sanitiser gel.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after using public transport. Use a sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

We are already enhancing hygiene practices across the campus, and will do more in the days ahead, to further reduce risk; and are working closely with other Poole schools. Further advice which we will be displaying in school can be found at the following link

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/866771/Coronavirus_advice_for_education_settings_poster.pdf

Further information on coronavirus can be found on the government website:

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

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M Lane

Business Manager