

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College



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13th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Covid-19

As you are aware, there has been a great deal written and reported about Covid-19, the Coronavirus. We want to stress that we are closely monitoring the situation and taking daily updates from the Government via the Department for Education and Public Health England. Any updates will be communicated to all parents/carers as we receive them.

The school's cleaning routines have been reviewed and we will endeavour to ensure that surfaces and 'touchpoints' such as door handles, light switches and finger print scanners are regularly disinfected. Handwashing facilities are being checked and replenished daily. There are regular reminders to staff and students around core hand hygiene guidance as below:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately
- Wash your hands with soap and water often – use hand sanitizer gel if soap and water are not available
Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean
- Teachers are to regularly stress the need for good hand hygiene and ensure that all washing facilities have adequate supplies of soap.

Most up-to-date Government advice 12.3.20

The Government has announced that **we are now in the delay phase** in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The focus of this phase is to slow the spread of COVID-19 in this country, lowering the peak impact and pushing it away from the winter season. The UK Chief Medical Officers have now raised the risk to the UK from moderate to high

If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 self-isolate for 7 days regardless of whether you have travelled to an affected area.

Symptoms are:

- A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- A new continuous cough

If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 you do not need to consult NHS 111 or a health professional. Consult the [Stay at Home guidance](#) for more details. [NHS 111](#) should be consulted only if your symptoms worsen or are no better after 7 days.

Self-isolation for 7 days is very important to help control spread of the virus. You can return to normal after 7 days if you are well and free of fever because most people will not be likely to transmit (spread) the virus after 7 days from the start of symptoms.

14 days of self-isolation still applies to those who have been exposed to a confirmed case/met travel criteria but not shown symptoms. This is because 14 days is the incubation period, i.e. the maximum time it takes for symptoms to show if you have been infected.

The DfE has also launched a helpline to answer questions about Covid-19 for Staff, parents and young people:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Student absence and Students self-isolating

- If students present with any of the above symptoms they should not come in to school and should self-isolate. They should follow the NHS Stay at home advice <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronaviruscovid-19/self-isolation-advice/>
- If this is the case, parents/carers should contact school via the APP or absence line as per usual procedure and let school know they have the above symptoms and will be self-isolating as a result.
- In the case where a student develops symptoms during the school day, school have allocated a containment room for the student to be directed to whilst arrangements are made for the student to be collected. Please can parents/carers support with a prompt collection.
- Arrangements should then be made for the student to self-isolate

Extra precautions are being put in place for visitors. All visitors to school will be required to complete a disclosure to state they are not experiencing the symptoms above and wash their hands on entry.

As per Government advice, planned school trips abroad have been cancelled and further details will be sent to those who this directly affects. Additionally, calendared events are being reviewed and cancelled where necessary. Those directly affected will receive the appropriate notification.

Currently the Government have not confirmed there will be school closures. Should the situation change and a school closure is enforced we are planning to ensure that we can provide work for our students, particularly for Year 11 students at this crucial time.

Year 11 Students

Our contingency planning will prioritise our Y11 students' provision in the event of a school closure. Staff are working hard to prepare revision packs for Y11 alongside a range of online learning resources.

Disruption to the Examination Period

If the outbreak causes disruption through the examination season, awarding bodies are expected to issue appropriate guidance to schools. The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has a well-established examination disruption contingency plan. Although this information does not address issues related to COVID-19 directly, it is likely that it will form the basis of specific advice for examination centres if the outbreak impacts on their ability to manage candidates' access to assessments or prevents candidates from travelling to centres. We will update Y11 students and parents/carers if there are any developments in this area.

Please be mindful we have to respond to potential Government and public health directives at very short notice. I advise all members of the college community to regularly check the APP, emails and other communication platforms in the days and weeks ahead to make themselves aware of any updates.

As a school we will take the action based on Government advice in the best interests of our students, staff and the wider community.

Yours faithfully



Mrs D. Scott

Principal