



# Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College

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Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Re: Coronavirus Information

As everyone in our community will be aware, Coronavirus is currently proving to be an issue across the UK.

We wanted to reach out and reassure parents that we are doing everything possible to minimise the risk that coronavirus poses to our community. Recently, we gave a presentation to all students about the virus and the importance of general hygiene and handwashing. We are also being extra vigilant about the availability of handwash around the school. Regular updates are being sent to us directly from local and central government and we are responding to this as and when required.

We have had a number of enquiries from parents in regard to coronavirus and we wanted to clarify the following:

- Parents should contact us immediately if their child has a confirmed case of coronavirus or if anyone they have been in close contact with has a confirmed case of coronavirus. We will then take advice from Public Health England about the appropriate next steps.
- If any parents or students are unwell and believe they have been exposed to coronavirus (either through travel to a specified country or area or contact with a confirmed case) then they should contact NHS 111 (either by phone or online) and follow their guidance accordingly.
- Parents should contact us if they or their child has recently visited any of the affected regions (as per the link on our website)

The Department for Education has launched a new helpline to answer questions about Coronavirus related to education. Staff, parents, carers and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: [DFE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DFE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

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

The information shared with students is as follows:

### **What is coronavirus?**

- Coronavirus is a type of virus, similar to common cold which can cause:
  - Cough
  - High temperature
  - Shortness of breath
- For most people this will be no more serious than a typical cold but for some more people who already have serious health problems, it can be very serious.
- When someone who has it sneezes, this is the most likely way of passing it on because those within 2 metres could breathe it in
- It is also possible to transfer the virus by touching an infected surface or object and then touching your own eyes, mouth or nose.

### **What do we need to do to combat it?**

- Wash your hands well and regularly with soap or use hand sanitizer.
- Wetting your hands is not the same as washing. You should wash them:
  - Before school
  - After using the toilet
  - After breaks and sporting activities
  - Before eating food, including snacks
- <https://www.nhs.uk/video/pages/how-to-wash-hands.aspx>
- Catch it, Bin it, Kill it.
- If you need to sneeze then make sure you do so into a clean tissue or the crook of your arm. Bin the tissue and wash your hands.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are not well

### **Should we be concerned?**

- No. We must remain calm even if cases are found in our area
- We are still in an area of low risk
- The government are working hard to find a medicine for it so we need to follow the steps outlined to slow down the speed that it spreads.
- We all have a responsibility to reduce risk because it will benefit lots more people than ourselves
- The government is preparing for a situation where it is more common in our country and more information will be shared in the coming months

Please feel free to get in touch via [admin@saintspeterandpaul.halton.sch.uk](mailto:admin@saintspeterandpaul.halton.sch.uk) if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs D Scott  
Principal