



St. Paul's Catholic School

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17th March 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am writing to give you an update in relation to the latest government advice regarding the Covid-19 strain of coronavirus. As it currently stands, we are operating as normal. There have been no reported cases of the virus at St Paul's for either a child or staff member.

I am committed to providing the best possible education, at the same time as keeping children, staff and our community safe. As the advice is being updated regularly, please read the remainder of this letter carefully, as it contains important information that you need to know.

If directed by Public Health England or the Department for Education, we will close the school. However, insufficient staffing levels due to illness may also necessitate closure. We have considered a phased plan as follows:

Option 1	School is open as normal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children attend if well All staff attend if well
Option 2	Staffing is predicted to be low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School will be open to year groups where there is sufficient staffing. All non-self-isolating staff will attend school.
Option 3	Insufficient staff for safe opening of the school site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School will be closed to children. All non-self-isolating staff will attend school.
Option 4	The school has been instructed to close by Public Health England or the Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School will be closed to children. Staff attendance at school will depend on the advice received.

If a child or staff member has a continuous cough and/or high temperature (37.8) they must remain at home for seven days and not attend school.

If your child has symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, they must stay at home ('self-isolate') and not leave the house for seven days from when the symptoms started. The most common symptoms are a new continuous cough and/or high temperature.



If a child or staff member display either of these symptoms whilst on the school site, they will be sent home and required to self-isolate for 7 days. They will not be allowed on the school site during this time.

Key messages:

- for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection
- 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.
- this action will help protect others in your community whilst you are infectious.
- plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that you can successfully stay at home.
- ask your employer, friends and family to help you to get the things you need to stay at home.
- stay at least 2 metres (about 3 steps) away from other people in your home whenever possible.
- sleep alone, if that is possible.
- wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water.
- stay away from vulnerable individuals such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions as much as possible.
- you do not need to call NHS111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days contact NHS 111 online. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

As you are aware ,The Department for Education has launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education.

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

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

I appreciate it may be an anxious time and I thank you for your support during these changing and challenging times. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the contact the school office or helpline mentioned above.

Yours sincerely,



Nuala Oster

Headteacher