



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Re: Coronavirus concerns

You're likely to be aware of the outbreak of novel coronavirus and the subsequent confirmed cases across the UK.

At St John's Catholic Comprehensive School, we take the health and safety of our pupils and staff very seriously, so we're sharing guidance from Public Health England on steps that you should be taking.

I wish to stress that there's currently **no cause for concern** at the school, yet I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that we're keeping the school especially clean to prevent the spread of any virus and we have spoken to the students on the importance of good personal hygiene. We will, of course, keep you fully informed of any further developments.

To help prevent the spread of viruses, it is advised that we all follow these simple, general principles at school and at home:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home
- If you're worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 – don't go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment

Additionally, if you or your children have returned from a category 1 country or area in past 14 days

This includes:

- Wuhan city and Hubei province, China; Iran; Daegu or Cheongdo, South Korea; any Italian town under containment measures

Then you are asked to contact NHS 111 for advice, and:

- Self-isolate for 14 days after leaving the country or area
- If you become unwell, call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if you require emergency medical attention)

If you or your children have returned from a category 2 country or area in last 14 days

This includes:

- Cambodia; China (other than Wuhan city or Hubei province); Hong Kong; Italy: north; Laos; Macau; Malaysia; Myanmar; Singapore; South Korea (other than Daegu or Cheongdo); Taiwan; Thailand; Vietnam

If you or your children are well:

- You don't need to avoid contact with other people
- Your other family members don't need to take any precautions or make any changes to their own activities



If you become unwell:

- Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with other flu viruses
- Call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if you require emergency medical attention)

Symptoms to look out for

If you've returned from any of the category 1 or 2 areas or countries, look out for the following symptoms:

- Cough
- Difficulty in breathing
- Fever (a temperature of 38 degrees C or higher)

According to other official guidance, while you wait for further advice:

- Avoid contact with others
- Stay at home – don't go to work or school
- Don't travel while sick
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing, throwing tissues in the bin
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available)

If there is any other advice shared by Public Health England, please be assured that the school will react accordingly. If you have any additional questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office and we will do our best to answer your concerns.

Yours sincerely

Matt Barron
Headteacher