



Star

17 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

You will have seen in the news that the situation surrounding the spread of the COVID-19 virus (Coronavirus) continues to develop at pace. The health and well-being of our pupils and staff remains our utmost priority. All Trust schools are continuing to follow the Department for Education (DfE) COVID-19 guidance and taking the necessary measures to reduce the risk of infection in our schools.

As well as cancelling overseas trips, we have taken the decision to cancel all trips and visits, sports fixtures, parents' evenings, and all non-essential meetings and events until further notice. We are continuing to implement measures to minimise the risk of infection in our schools, including regular enhanced cleaning, particularly of frequently touched surfaces.

Yesterday, the Government confirmed that, for the time being, schools and educational settings will remain open, but that this will remain under review. Pupils should continue to attend school as normal unless they are showing any of the symptoms, or advised not to do so by NHS 111, their GP or another healthcare professional. Public transport should continue to be used to travel to school if an alternative form of transport is not possible. Our school bus providers are taking additional steps to ensure health and well-being, including more frequent cleaning of surfaces.

The Government has announced a range of new measures and guidance to help the country deal with the COVID-19 outbreak. These include:

- if you have a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, stay at home for 7 days.
- if you live with other people, they should stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person got symptoms (the isolation period remains 7 days for anyone who has one or more of the symptoms).
- Stop non-essential contact with others and unnecessary travel.
- Avoid events with large groups of people and social venues such as cinemas, theatres, pubs and clubs.
- Start working from home if you possibly can.
- Only use the NHS when you really need to and reduce the burden on NHS workers by getting advice on the NHS website where possible.

Further measures are likely to be introduced in the coming days, when those in the high-risk categories are expected to be told to isolate themselves for around three months.

We are reviewing the situation on an hourly basis and will communicate with you regularly to keep you abreast of the latest developments and what they mean for you, our pupils, staff and school.

As a trust, we are here to support our young people, their families and communities throughout this pandemic. If your family has to self-isolate and struggles to ensure that you have the everyday essentials that you need, please let your child's school know and, as a trust, we will try our best to support you. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

(Mufti) Hamid Patel CBE

Chief Executive