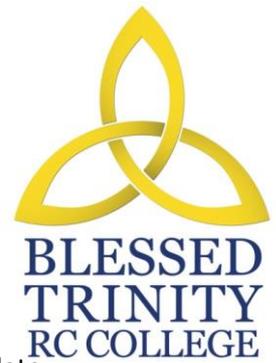


Ref: RV/hw

17 March 2020

Dear Parent



Following my letter of Monday 16th March 2020, I am writing to you with a further update.

The Department for Education Guidance has changed in the last 24 hours and is now:

- if you live with others and you or another member of the household have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.
- for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

The Department for Education state that current medical and scientific advice is for schools and other educational establishments to stay open. If this changes and the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Scientific Adviser say closing schools, colleges, and early years settings is in the best interests of children and teachers the Department will take that step. The full announcement can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/routine-ofsted-inspections-suspended-in-response-to-coronavirus>

The advice from the Department for Education for Headteachers is that 'unless you have been directly advised to close by the local Public Health England Health Protection Team, we recommend all education settings remain open'.

Therefore, we are making every effort to remain open for all years. We are aware that some other local schools have put partial closures into action. This is not a step we will be taking at this time. However, if we experience increased staff absence, this may be something that we need put into place and will notify you accordingly.

Department for Education advice remains that the most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves is to wash their hands more often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. Public Health England recommends that in addition to handwashing before eating, and after coughing and sneezing, everyone should also wash hands after using toilets and travelling on public transport.

A number of children have been taken home by parents today. We ask that if your child is showing symptoms that you keep them at home and self-isolate.

Staff are working hard preparing resources for a potential future closure and we will continue to keep you notified of any developments.

Yours sincerely

Richard Varey
Headteacher

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