

Coronavirus Update

There have been no reports of any member of our community displaying symptoms associated with the virus as outlined by Public Health England. The school continues to receive and action recommendations from the Local Authority and the Department for Education. We will follow all advice as this situation continues to develop and will keep you fully informed of any changes to daily operations here at Sacred Heart. The guidance at this time makes it clear that there is no need to close the school. There is also no need to send pupils home if a case of Coronavirus is suspected (but not confirmed) amongst pupils or staff. If a case is confirmed amongst pupils or staff, this will be reported immediately to the local Public Health England team who will advise the school what to do in light of the risk assessment that the (the local Public Health England) team will carry out. This could result in a closure but will be a decision based on various factors such as establishment size and pupil mixing.

The school is aware that for a number of parents, particularly those in the medical profession, the closure of the school will impact on their ability to work. For this reason the school will remain open until directed to close by the Government, Local Authority, Public Health England, we have insufficient staff to safely supervise students, or the school closes as normal for the Easter holidays. We are also putting a number of contingency plans in place to provide proportionate precautions and preparations for a potentially worsening situation. We are reviewing all school events such as assemblies, school performances and workshops which may be postponed. Further notification will be sent to parents.

If it is necessary for the school to close before the Easter holiday, provision is being put in place to enable children to access learning from home. In the interim, we would advise all members of our community to continue to follow the generic advice from the government which are general principles that help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. These include:

- wash your hands often - with soap and water, or use alcohol sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available
- cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin – Catch it, Bin it, Kill it!
- people who feel unwell should stay at home and should not attend work or any education or childcare setting
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- if you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child or colleague, please call NHS 111. Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment

To facilitate the above, the school has ensured that there is adequate hand soap in stock and available as usual in all toilets. We have also ensured that tissues will be available in all classrooms. As always, we're keeping the school clean to prevent the spread of any virus. We also ask that parents keep their child at home if they are displaying minor symptoms such as a cough and raised temperature. Where it is deemed necessary self-isolation should be carried out. The school has been advised to inform you that should any member of your family start to display any of the symptoms associated with Coronavirus COVID-19, then you should follow the relevant advice from The Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England via www.gov.uk. We would also ask that you inform school via admin@sacredheart-jun.manchester.sch.uk.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

S. Walker
Headteacher

