



Whitefield

Academy Trust

13th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Update letter 2

I am sending you the updated advice to schools on the coronavirus from Public Health England and the Department for Education. The Academy is following the guidance and is looking daily for further advice to schools. I will continue to keep you updated. Please also look at the school website which is updated daily (www.whitefield.org.uk)

The update for schools is as follows:

- Medical advisers have said that it is not yet necessary to close schools
- Schools are advised not to arrange overseas visits. We have cancelled our planned overseas visits (The academy has also cancelled any day visits into central London, currently, and residential visits in the UK).
- As a precautionary measure, we will not be inviting parents into school to attend pupils' assemblies. You are welcome, of course, at any other time.
- If your child develops a fever and/or a new, continuous cough, the government advises that they should stay at home and not leave their house for 7 days. Please see guidance below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If someone in your household is self-isolating because they are ill, please continue to send your young person to school.

In the event that the school is closed, you will be advised at the earliest possible time. Work for students across the academy will be placed on the website and you will have access to your child's homework. You will also have access to a Family Support telephone number through which you can contact us. I will send these details out in the event of a closure. We will not close unless the DfE or Public Health advise us to do so or there are an overwhelming number of staff who are self-isolating to the point that we cannot continue the education of the young people safely. Might I stress this would be an emergency measure as a last resort. Our intention is to keep the schools fully open.

Just to remind you, the virus is spread by close contact when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or by touching an infected surface such as a door knob and then touching the mouth, nose or eyes.

How can you continue to help?
Good hygiene and what you can do to help

Lots of handwashing is one of the best ways to stop the spread of any cold or flu-like virus. We are stepping up handwashing at school and would ask you to do the same.

We would ask you to ensure that your child's hands are washed:

- before they leave for school
- when they get back from school
- before eating or preparing food
- after using the toilet

If you visit the school, please use the hand sanitiser at reception before entering the main school.

What we will do to stop the spread of coughs and sneezes

We will ensure that all pupils and staff wash their hands:

- when they first arrive at school
- before eating
- during breaks
- after using the toilet
- before leaving school

If your child is unwell with a fever or new, persistent cough, please inform us and keep your child at home for at least 7 days. Please report the absence to school in the usual way.

About travel abroad

If you are planning to travel for Easter or the Summer holidays, please check the government website regularly:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

If you have any questions about the care of your young person and the Coronavirus please contact:

Whitefield Schools, Family Support team – Gill Wadeson or Lesley Middleton (020 8531 3426)

Joseph Clarke School, Family Support contact – Sarah Bent (020 8523 4833)

Other useful resources

The government updates this page with information and advice about the virus here:

<http://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

The NHS has a good page on reducing the risk of infection here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely,

Elaine Colquhoun OBE
Chief Executive Officer
Whitefield Academy Trust