

17 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the change in the government's advice re. COVID-19, the position within our trust schools is now as follows:

The schools remain open - but in coming days there may be whole or part school closures

If we need to close or partially close any of our schools, the Headteacher will wherever possible inform parents/carers by 8pm the previous evening. This will be via Parentmail, the school website, Dorset Council and for BCP Council websites:

<https://mapping.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/closedservices/Service/schools>

<https://www.poole.gov.uk/schools-and-education/> (Merley First School only)

The senior leadership teams in all of our schools are currently preparing resources that pupils can access from home in the event of partial or full closure of a school.

Schools within Wimborne Academy Trust are currently looking at signposting to websites and online platforms to support those pupils currently not in school. We ask for your patience whilst these are prepared.

#### Extra-Curricular Activities

All evening activities and meetings involving groups of visitors to the school will be cancelled until the end of term.

All sporting fixtures or school events that involve either visits to or from other schools/ establishments are cancelled.

#### Attendance

Yesterday, the Government introduced new guidance on whole household isolation in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:

- if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for 7 days from when your symptoms started
- 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.

The symptoms are:

- A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- A new, continuous cough

The full stay at home guidance for households with these symptoms can be found here:

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

We understand that parents/carers may wish to withdraw children from school as a preventative social distancing measure.

In accordance with latest government information and advice, pupils will be registered as absent due to exceptional circumstances. These absences will not be subject to our normal attendance procedures and will be recorded as authorised absence.


If your child will be absent from school due to self-isolation or social distancing, please notify your school through the normal procedure for absence.

The table advises social distancing measures by group, prepared by Public Health England:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>

Group/ Action	Wash hands more often	Household isolation for 14 days*	Self - isolation for 7 days**	Social mixing in the community***	Having friends and family to the house	Use remote access to NHS and essential services****	Vary daily commute and use less public transport	Home working
0 – 69	Yes	Yes	Yes	Advised against	Advised against	Advised	Advised	Advised
70+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised	Strongly advised	Strongly advised
Any age Member of vulnerable group with an underlying health condition <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised	Strongly advised	Strongly advised
Pregnant women	Yes	Yes	Yes	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised	Strongly advised	Strongly advised
Those with serious underlying health conditions	As above, but further bespoke guidance will be provided by your GP next week							

I would like to thank you for your continued support. We will continue to keep you informed of any decisions or news.

Kind regards



Liz West  
 CEO  
 Wimborne Academy Trust