

**Dear colleagues, for your information and update, please see the latest Catholic Education Service Advice below:**

### **Department for Education COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

Following the Prime Minister's statement on COVID-19 (Coronavirus) yesterday, all the latest information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

The government has issued new travel guidance for the education sector. **This advises against all overseas education trips for children under 18.** This does not apply to domestic trips, or overseas trips which are already underway. The full education travel guidance is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/covid-19-travel-guidance-for-the-education-sector>

Today, Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education will speak to school and college leaders at the ASCL Annual Conference. He will thank all education leaders for their efforts to keep settings open during this period and for following public health advice.

The DfE have asked that this information is shared as widely as possible, including the new education travel advice. In particular, the DfE suggest

- **Share information on your social media channels** (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn etc). You can share DfE content ([Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#)) or create your own content. Please tag [@educationgovuk](#) and use #COVID-19 #Coronavirus.
- **Promote DfE's dedicated COVID-19 helpline on your organisation's website, social media channels and in any newsletters or updates to members.**

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

**Phone: 0800 046 8687**

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday

If you work in a school, please have your unique reference number (URN or UK PRN) available when calling the hotline.