



Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy



17 March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Following the recent publication by the UK Government of their Coronavirus Action Plan, we have now moved from the initial phase of that plan, Phase One, The Containment Phase, to Phase Two, The Delay Phase. As a result, we would like to inform you of what we are doing in light of this and what we expect from everyone, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm. We would like to reassure you that at Bishop Rawstorne, we are taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government.

The school will remain open at this time and this remains the guidance given to us by the UK Government and the Blackburn Diocese. Students should attend school unless they feel unwell or if a member of their family is unwell, in which case the household is expected to self-isolate for a period of 14 days. Current guidance is:

- **If you have symptoms, a new, continuous cough and/or a temperature you should stay at home for 14 days in self-isolation.**
- **If you live with other people, they should stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person got symptoms.**

IF ONE PERSON IN A HOUSEHOLD IS DISPLAYING SYMPTOMS, THEN THE WHOLE HOUSEHOLD SHOULD SELF-ISOLATE

If you are vulnerable in terms of having an underlying health condition or are pregnant, you should self-isolate and await further guidance.

If you live with someone who is 70 or over, has a long-term condition, is pregnant or has a weakened immune system, try to find somewhere else for them to stay for 14 days.

If you have to stay at home together, try to keep away from each other as much as possible.

If your child is unwell, please report this as you would normally by telephoning the absence line. We have postponed all upcoming trips, visits and sports fixtures up until the Easter break in the first instance. We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation.

Any student showing symptoms of the infection/illness whilst on site or during a school activity will be isolated from other persons so far as practical and will be sent home as soon as possible. Please come and collect your child straight away if we ask you to do so. We'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough.

Continued

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There is a clear process that all staff will follow so as not to overreact or cause unnecessary panic amongst the students. Hand-washing has been actively promoted and encouraged with our students and hand sanitisers are provided in toilet areas. Assemblies have taken place about hygiene and how to deal with anxiety.

If you have recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office as soon as possible via email. Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a difficult time and we should make sure our young people feel supported. YoungMinds, an online agency, offers practical steps that older children can take to help with anxiety.

If the decision is made to close the school, then at that time we would ensure that all students have appropriate work provided for them through the Microsoft Teams platform, emails and photocopied workbooks. In the meantime, we will not be providing work for students who are self-isolating, but recommend that children use this time to read, access online platforms such as Hegarty Maths, go through class notes or revise to consolidate former learning. We have plans in place for such an eventuality of closure and this need not be a concern for you or your child.

Clearly this is a challenging time for everyone, but as a Christian community we will work together to face the coming period of time calmly and with resilience. We will, as we have done so far, be reassuring to all of our students and do whatever we can to minimise the impact of this unprecedented situation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JP Cowley', written in a cursive style.

Mr P Cowley
Headteacher