

13 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you to provide you with an update on COVID-19.

You may be aware that as a country we have moved to phase 2 in dealing with the COVID 19 virus, from 'contain' to 'delay'. At this point, advice to schools remains the same, but this may change in the coming days.

To date, there have been no confirmed cases of coronavirus in any of REACH2's 59 open academies, and we continue to follow the latest guidance and advice from the Government through Public Health England and the Department for Education.

The current advice is that schools should continue to remain open, but that may change over the coming period. We recognise that if things do change, this may mean you may have to make alternative work or childcare arrangements, and so we will give you as much notice as possible, should the Government advice change. Meanwhile the staff in schools are preparing materials for your children to do at home, should we be asked to close the schools.

In line with recent Government advice, all residential trips abroad are being cancelled with immediate effect and we are risk assessing all trips in this country on a case by case basis. Your child/ren's Headteacher will confirm the decision about any trips/residentials.

Our schools are continuing to provide sensible hygiene precautions and we are encouraging this to continue at home. Please see attached guidance from Public Health England on the matter.

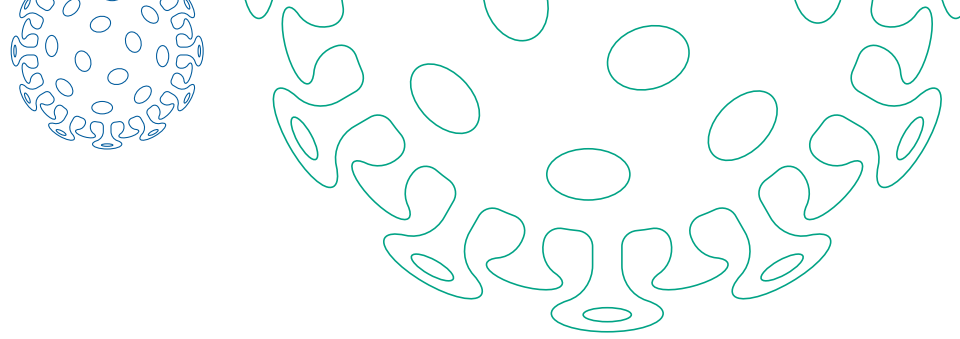
REACH2 recognise that this is an unsettling time, and that you will have concerns. The safety and wellbeing of your children will always be our number one priority and we will continue to follow all official advice from Public Health England and the Department for Education. We will also keep you updated through your academy's normal communication methods, including your school's website.

As ever, if you have any questions, please do get in touch through the school office in the usual way or via info@reach2.org.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Lancashire", written in a cursive style.

Sir Steve Lancashire
Chief Executive Office, REACH2 Academy Trust



Advice on the coronavirus for places of education

How serious is the coronavirus?

- it can cause flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough & difficulty breathing
- the infection is not serious for most people, including children
- there is currently no vaccine
- most people get better with enough rest, water to drink and medicine for pain

How likely are you to catch the virus?

- you can only catch it if you have been close to a person who has the virus
- the chance of being in contact with the virus is currently low in the UK
- if you have travelled to areas where many people are infected, your chance of catching the virus is higher, i.e. China and any affected areas

How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?

If you need to cough or sneeze



Catch it with a tissue



Bin it



Kill it by washing your hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser

You should wash hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser



After breaks & sport activities



Before cooking & eating



On arrival at any childcare or educational setting



After using the toilet



Before leaving home



Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands



Do not share items that come into contact with your mouth such as cups & bottles



If unwell do not share items such as bedding, dishes, pencils & towels



Stop germs spreading with our e-Bug resources on hand and respiratory hygiene lesson plans for KS1, 2 and 3: campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools

What should you do if you feel unwell?

Keep away from others and stay at home to stop the infection spreading. Avoid public transport if you think you have symptoms of coronavirus. If you become unwell at a place of education, tell a member of staff and let them know if you have travelled to any other countries in the last 14 days.

If your staff member or parent thinks you have symptoms of coronavirus, they should call **NHS 111** for advice. Follow the UK Government advice for childcare or educational settings gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19. Parents can visit **NHS.UK** to find out more information. Teachers and support staff should follow the UK Government advice.

Staff, students and pupils who have returned from Iran, specific lockdown areas in northern Italy, special care zones in South Korea or Hubei province China (returned in the past 14 days) should self isolate, and NOT attend education or work for 14 days. See **NHS.UK** for advice on coronavirus.

If there is an emergency, call 999 immediately

