

LINK ACADEMY TRUST

Landscope School House
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Tuesday 17th March

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you to clarify the Governments current position on Coronavirus and the school attendance/ self-isolation process which we as a Trust are following in all our schools. We are aware that there is a lot of uncertainty and parents are understandably anxious.

The current advice is;

Stay at home for 14 days if you or any member of your family have either:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough

This will help to protect others in your community while you or anyone in your family are infectious.

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You do not need to contact NHS 111 to tell them you're staying at home.

There will be no testing for people who are self-isolating with mild symptoms.

For up to date information you can visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

If your child has any of the symptoms described above, they need to self-isolate for 14 days with the family. Guidance on self-isolating can be found below.

Reporting Self-Isolation:

You must report on the first day of absence that your child is self-isolating in the usual way – by telephoning the school office. This Government has issued guidance that the isolation period should last for 14 days. *If your child's condition improves within this time, you must continue to self-isolate* as any virus could still be passed on to others. Registers will be marked using the 'Exceptional Circumstances' code which is a code schools are able to use in events such as these. This will appear as a 'Y' on the register and this code is discounted from absence figures, meaning that your child's attendance percentage will not be affected. Absences after the 14 day isolation period will need to be reported in the usual way but current guidance is that 14 days is enough to pass the infectious stage and is safe to return to school.

We will of course continue to keep parents updated on local and national guidance as soon as we are able.

In our schools we are keeping contact between pupils and visitors, speakers or non-vital volunteers to the minimum. Pupils will not be taking part in inter-schools tournaments/ activities in order to reduce the possibility of contact with the Covid 19 virus. We will, however be using the highest quality supply teachers to try and keep our schools open and operating to deliver learning. Supply teachers will be expected to follow all current advice within our schools as any of our teachers would.

We will avoid gathering our children together as a whole school in assemblies etc. where this is sensible and can be achieved effectively.

Daily cleaning is focused on sanitising surfaces, door handles, computers etc and we will take the Easter Holiday opportunity to 'deep clean' all schools. Pupils are being taught and encouraged to wash their hands regularly and effectively and this has been happening from the outset.

Academy Heads will be meeting before the end of this week to confirm a Trust-wide plan to ensure all pupils within the Trust have access to a bank of learning resources and as much support as we can safely put in place should we be advised by the Government to close schools. We will also seek to provide support for families that may experience difficulties. The detail of these arrangements will be made clear to you before this weekend, the latest Friday 20th March.

Some schools have residential running this week. We have checked the arrangements in place at these sites and consider that they should go ahead, given their cancellation should not make a significant difference as they are mostly outdoors. A full action plan is in place for all eventualities.

Similarly outdoor activities based at school can go ahead, e.g. bikeability. There will be increased vigilance as part of these activities in terms of hand washing etc.

We will, however not be taking children into public places following latest Government guidance

We would kindly ask parents to drop their children off at the school gates and not come in to the school building where possible. This is in the best interest of the children and staff to limit people catching or spreading Coronavirus.

We appreciate your support with this matter.

There are currently *no plans to close schools* and we therefore expect pupils to be in school every day if they are not **genuinely** self-isolating.

Staying at Home Guidance for people who are self-isolating;

<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>

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns or questions.

Kind regards,



Nicky Dunford.

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