



DALE HOUSE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

Dear Parents

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus): Advice for Parents, Carers and Pupils

We take our responsibility for the health and safety of our pupils, staff and communities very seriously and as such, we would like to share with you the current situation at Dale House School.

Our main focus is on that of the continued education of our pupils. However, in a time where we have high levels of media coverage we want to ensure that you are kept up to date with how we are monitoring the national and local picture around Covid-19, and any potential resulting impact on the school.

We receive daily briefings from the Department of Education (DfE) who are working closely with Public Health England (PHE). If there are any significant updates to this guidance, we will keep you informed, via our main communication channels: Text, website and Facebook.

1. Action we are taking as of 5 March 2020

The current guidance is that no school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless directed to do so by Public Health England (PHE).

There are, however, some measures that we can take to help to prevent the potential spread of the virus. As such, we are working to ensure that:

- soap and soap dispensers are fully stocked with anti-bacterial hand wash, and that anti-bacterial hand gel is also available
- pupils can bring in their own box of tissues to keep in their desk
- pupils are informed about the importance of handwashing and hygiene via assemblies, lessons and form period
- parents and carers remain informed and are regularly updated as appropriate.

We are aware of a number of educational visits that are scheduled to take place later this term, and we are continuing to monitor the situation closely in liaison with travel agents and the advice from the Foreign Office. We will obviously keep you informed should our current plans change in this respect.

Please rest assured that Dale House School and the Foundation Committee have specific business continuity plans in place should there be a need to respond as advised by PHE.

2. The importance of hygiene in preventing the spread of infection

In order to reduce the risk of the virus spreading we ask that all pupils, staff and visitors follow the Public Health England guidance. The expert advice is that personal hygiene is the most important way we can collectively tackle COVID-19, especially washing hands more; and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' strategy for those with coughs and sneezes. The following advice is of high importance in this respect:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin.

The following link refers to quick and handy updates from the NHS:

- <https://twitter.com/NHSuk/status/1235112744917049346>

3. What to do if you are worried

The Department for Education have launched a helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education.

Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: [0800 046 8687](tel:08000468687)
Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk
Opening hours: [8am to 6pm \(Monday to Friday\)](#)

If you are worried about your child, or a member of your family's symptoms, please call NHS 111 – do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment.

We would ask that you keep the school informed of any conversations with NHS 111 or Public Health England so that we can offer support and take any action as required.

4. Where to find the latest information

Updates on COVID-19:

- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

Can I take this final opportunity to thank you for your continued support in the hope that you find this update informative.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S M G Fletcher
Headmistress