

16th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We continue to follow the Government's guidance on taking appropriate steps to limit the impact on our school community. As we formally move into the 'Delay' phase the advice is to continue to keep our school open. The main important change is the new 'Stay at Home Guidance'

<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>

If a pupil has a new continuous cough and/or a high temperature they should stay at home for seven days and follow this guidance.

If a pupil feels unwell whilst at school they should let a member of staff know straight away. If they are presenting with a new continuous cough and/or a high temperature, we will ring you and ask for you to pick them up and keep them at home for 7 days. We are doing this as a precaution, in line with the updated Government guidance. This does not mean that we are diagnosing them with Covid 19.

If you have any concerns at all you should look at all the published Governmental advice online. If you are still concerned or need medical assistance, consult your GP's surgery by phone or ring the NHS 111 service.

Key Messages from the Government

- For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection.
- If you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home.
- Do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started.

In response to the Corona Virus pandemic we are reviewing our processes within our Trust schools. After careful consideration, the following measures are to be implemented with immediate effect:

Clubs and visitors:

- We have decided to limit people entering and leaving the school buildings. This means we are cancelling external providers, all school visits, visitors to our sites and all lettings. Please note, the after school care we provide with existing school staff, will continue as normal. Please can we ask parents to aid this by limiting unnecessary visits into school.
- Whilst as a Trust we are extremely proud of our culture of partnership working, we have made the decision not to visit each other's settings. This is inclusive of all staff and children.

School events:

- Parents' evening, all assemblies, governing body meetings etc will no longer take place until further notice.

Child absence:

- If your child is unwell, please keep them at home, as normal, regardless of illness. If you are concerned it is Corona Virus, please follow the Government guidance. Likewise, if we believe that your child is unwell, we will contact you and follow the isolation guidance as required. Safeguarding at Bronte Academy Trust is paramount, and we fully support parents' decisions made regarding children's attendance in order to keep their children safe.
- Over the next few days, there will be access available to our 'Just in Case' drive, via our website, so that families choosing to self isolate are able to access work for the children. We will text parents as soon as this becomes available.
- If you return from travel abroad, we will be asking you to keep your children off for 7 days from return as a precaution.

Please support our preventative measures in keeping our schools open and children and staff safe, by limiting your social contact by adhering to social distancing measures as directed by the government.

We very much look forward to life getting back to normal as soon as possible. Please can we ask for your patience, understanding and support during these unprecedented times. Normal school routines may be adapted and changed as staffing etc fluctuates.

As a Trust we are always very transparent, and we follow government directives. We will keep you updated as we receive further information.

We hope all our families stay safe during these difficult and challenging times.

Kindest regards,

The Headteachers of the Bronte Academy Trust