

Monday, 16th March 2020

Ambitions Academies Trust

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Public Health England has issued new guidance on 12th March 2020, in response to the current coronavirus pandemic.

The Trust continues to follow this advice using two key documents:

- COVID-19: guidance for educational settings
- COVID-19: stay at home guidance

The latest guidance is explicit for all in that should anyone be exhibiting the most common signs of coronavirus which are a **new and continuous cough and/or a high temperature, then however mild, you must not leave your home for 7 days from when your symptoms started.**

The advice from Public Health England continues to be that should there be a suspected case of covid-19 within an educational setting, there is no need to close the school or send other learners or staff home. We continue to follow the advice provided with regard to the **cleaning of specific areas and disposing of waste.**

There is NO school in the Trust that currently has a confirmed case of the coronavirus. If a case is confirmed then action will be taken in line with government guidance. This includes a risk assessment being undertaken with advice from the Local Health Protection Team.

If a pupil or staff member within the Trust is confirmed as having the coronavirus, we will request that any **contacts** of that person self-isolate for fourteen days. A contact is defined as:

- Anyone in close face-to-face or touching contact including those undertaking small group work (within 2 metres of the case for more than 15 minutes)
- Talking with or being coughed on for any length of time while the individual is symptomatic.
- Anyone who has cleaned up any bodily fluids of the individual.
- Close friendship groups
- Anyone living in the same household as a confirmed case.

Contacts are not considered cases, but must follow the Public Health England guidance which is to self-isolate for 14 days.

Public Health England is explicit in stating that anyone who is not a contact as defined above, can continue attending school unless they become unwell and then the advice at the start of this letter must be followed.

Should you need to take your child out of school as a consequence of government guidance, this will be recorded as an **authorised absence**.

All of our schools continue to be cleaned daily and Public Health England's advice is that public areas where a symptomatic individual has passed through and spent minimal time do not need to receive any additional specialist cleaning. Any surfaces that a suspected case has come into contact with will be cleaned with disposable cloths and detergents according to recommended workplace legislation and practice.

In the event of staffing being affected at any of our schools, some changes may need to be made to the way that lessons are delivered. We will do our utmost to manage this as smoothly as possible and in particular to ensure that children sitting examinations this academic year are the first priority.

Thank you for your support and understanding at this very challenging time. We will continue to keep you updated as the situation develops.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sian Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sian Thomas
CEO
Ambitions Academies Trust