



Dereham Church of England Junior Academy

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Diocese of Norwich
Education and
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Coronavirus Updates 16.03.2020

During this challenging time, we will endeavor not only to keep your children safe whilst in our school but keep you up to date on what is happening, including updates on any changes to guidance and notification of any changes to our usual practice.

Absence from school: If your child is absent from school due to a high temperature and/or a consistent cough, they are currently required to self-isolate for a period of 7 days. This does not mean they simply need to be off school for 7 days, but that they ***need to stay within their home for the duration of this period***. They should not be out in public places and should be as separate from the rest of the family as possible. There is a different absence code for pupils who need to self-isolate and it is ***vital you are clear with the office as to why your child is absent from school***. Currently guidance is that only pupils showing symptoms should be absent from school although we are aware that moving forward this could include all family members and we will inform you if/when this happens.

Please note that coughs can last for more than 7 days; however, if there are no other symptoms (such as a high temperature) then ***you do not need to isolate for more than the 7 days***. This guidance is taken from Public Health England advice.

'Where a pupil is in self-isolation, in accordance with latest information and advice from Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England, the pupil should be recorded as unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances in the attendance register. Code Y (Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances) should be used in this instance. Where a pupil's parent/guardian refuses to send them to school, the pupil should be recorded as absent in the attendance register and coded accordingly. (Public Health England)

'Coughing may persist for several weeks in some people, despite the coronavirus infection having cleared. A persistent cough alone does not mean you must continue to self-isolate for more than 7 days.' (Public Health England)

Hand Washing: Children across the school will be expected to wash their hands more regularly and staff will supervise this. All children, as a minimum, they will wash their hands as they come in to school, before and after break, before and after lunchtime and possibly during the afternoon, activities depending. Additionally, hands will be washed before and after any practical activities/PE sessions.

Home Learning: We are discussing as a staff how we can provide home learning opportunities for our children either when they have to self-isolate (if they are well enough to work) or if schools are advised to close. Once this has been agreed with staff and we are in a position to share learning activities, we will of course do so.

Staff Absence: As you will be aware, it will not only be the children who have to self-isolate if they display symptoms, but will also affect our staff. Staff are subject to the same guidance as children. We will endeavor to keep the school open and running in the usual way and will update you if this causes any significant challenges.

Thank you for your continued support at this time.