



Priory Woods School & Arts College Tothill Avenue, Middlesbrough, TS5 0RH

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Headteacher: Mrs Janis French

www.priorywoods.middlesbrough.sch.uk

17/3/2020

Dear Families,

Re: Coronavirus concerns

At PrioryWoods we take the health and safety of our children and staff very seriously. We recognise that some of the children in our care are among the most vulnerable members of society and so may need additional precautions.

We also recognise that for many of the students, the routine and structure of school is extremely important for their wellbeing, so we aim to maintain normal routine as much as possible.

The school policy in response to the COVID-19 epidemic is summarised below. Some of these are additional measures and some are a continuation of our already existing health and safety policy. We intend to limit the risk to children and staff by:

- the introduction of additional **personal hygiene requirements** for staff and children as they move around the school (e.g. hand washing/sanitising – face masks will not be used);
- the **limitation of pupil travel** by the cancellation of residential trips and by reviewing the risk of even local out of school activities;
- **the limitation staff travel** – staff will not attend external events such as conferences;
- **the minimising of school visitors** – only those deemed very important will be allowed to come into school and
- **the introduction of parental choice** – school will authorise absence if parents/carers take the view that the risk to a student is minimised by staying away from school (for example a particularly vulnerable student).

The School's policy towards staff and pupil illness will be that:

- if a member of staff or student shows symptoms that would require 'self-isolation' under the current Government guidance, they will be **sent home immediately to 'self-isolate'**. **PLEASE ENSURE SCHOOL HAS YOUR LATEST CONTACT DETAILS AND BE AVAILABLE TO COLLECT YOUR CHILD SHOULD THEY DEVELOP A TEMPERATURE OR SYMPTOMS WHILST AT SCHOOL.**



- **sick pay will be paid** to staff who are self-isolating in line with government guidance.

School Closure

Current Government advice is that blanket school/college closure in response to the COVID-19 epidemic is **not appropriate at this time**, unless re-advised by the relevant health authorities. The Head Teacher in conjunction with the Chair of Governors has the **discretion to close the school** if in her judgement:

- the overall staffing absence level is so high that the **safety of children** cannot be guaranteed and/or
- the rate of staff or student illness is excessive.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. We will keep you fully informed of any changes.

Yours sincerely



Janis French

*Janis French
Head Teacher
Priory Woods School and Arts College*

Please note, if your child has a high temperature or has a continuous cough, they should not come to school and should not return for 14 days.

If anyone in your household has these symptoms, then everyone in the household needs to self-isolate for 14 days from the date of the onset of symptoms.

Coronavirus: Key symptoms

