



WISE
ACADEMIES
We Inspire Success and Excellence

13th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

We wanted to communicate with parents about our ongoing actions around managing the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Please be reassured that WISE Academies is adhering closely to the advice which is being regularly updated from the Department for Education and Public Health England.

We hope that the following information will prove helpful:

- **Are schools closing?**

No. At the present time, government advice is clear that schools should remain open. However, we are continuing to monitor this situation carefully. In the event that official advice changes at any point, our main priority will be to communicate this to parents.

In the event of schools being told to close, parents will be informed immediately and we will set out arrangements for children to complete work at home to continue their learning.

Unless specifically advised to the contrary children should continue to attend school as normal.

- **Have we had any confirmed cases of pupils or staff being diagnosed with COVID-19?**

No. Please be assured that at the time of writing, there have been no known confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) within our academy or within any WISE Academies setting. However, we want to assure you that we are monitoring the situation closely.

In the event that there was a confirmed case of coronavirus amongst our academy community, we will immediately undertake a risk assessment and will always follow advice from the Public Health England and decisions would be taken accordingly.

- **What to do if you are concerned about symptoms**

NHS advice is that you should stay at home for 7 days if you have either of the following symptoms:

- High temperature
- A new, continuous cough

The advice is that you do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. You do not need to contact NHS 111 to tell them you are staying at home.

HASTING HILL ACADEMY Executive Headteacher: Miss N Fountain Head of School: Mrs S Robson
TILBURY ROAD, SUNDERLAND, SR3 4LY Tel 0191 7070121

E-mail hastingshill@wiseacademies.co.uk Website hastingshill.wiseacademies.co.uk

WISE Academies Ltd is a limited company registered in England and Wales, Company Registration No. 07521946
Registered Offices: Borodin Avenue, Sunderland SR5 4NX. Chief Executive Officer: Mrs Z E Carr (O.B.E.)

If advised to self-isolate you must follow government and NHS guidance. If this applies to your child, please report their absence to their school in the usual way and ensure you confirm that you are self-isolating your child because they are showing symptoms of coronavirus infection.

- **What can we do to minimise the risks?**

All advice is to ensure that all children and staff wash their hands regularly with soap and water.

We have implemented the advice from Public Health England for education settings to prevent the spread of coronaviruses including routines around coughs/sneezes and hand washing.

Please encourage your children to wash their hands carefully and regularly for 20 seconds with soapy water and to sneeze or cough into a tissue and dispose of it in the bin.

We are sure that parents will already be taking reasonable precautions to maximise hygiene. Please help us by making sure children are washing their hands thoroughly before leaving to come to school and after arriving home.

- **Where can I obtain further advice and guidance?**

If you are concerned or would like further information about the coronavirus outbreak, please see the links below:

- **NHS Website** - For all the latest information about Coronavirus please visit:

www.nhs.uk/coronavirus.

- **Department for Education Coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687**

This helpline has been set up to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline.

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

- **Public Health England** website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

- **How will the academy contact me if the situation changes?**

The situation continues to be closely monitored and we will communicate with parents through all available means. Please ensure that the academy has two points of parent/carer contact information for your child – this should include an email address and phone number (preferably a mobile number). If this requires updating please let us know.

In summary, WISE Academies continues to operate normally in line with the current advice published by the Government and Public Health England for schools and education settings. Parents can be assured that the safety of our pupils and staff across the trust remains our priority.

Further updates will continue to be communicated to parents as the situation develops.

Yours sincerely

CEO/ Headteacher

