



Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust

Josephine Butler Campus, Academy Road
Ashington, Northumberland NE63 9FZ
CEO: Alan Hardie

11th March 2020

Coronavirus update 11/3/20

Dear Parents and Carers

We understand the concerns that many of you will have over the potential risk to your child posed by coronavirus. Please be assured that we review the situation and any updates from the Department of Education (DfE), National Health Service (NHS) and Public Health England (PHS) on a daily basis as part of our ongoing risk assessment process.

I know that some of you thought that newspaper headlines yesterday meant an immediate change in Government policy regarding coronavirus. These headlines were unhelpful, as the actual stories indicated that the Government were considering changes should the number of cases in the UK rapidly increase. As of today, the official advice remains the same as before. We have added appropriate links to the relevant web sites below, so that you can access the most up to date information.

As of this morning, there have been no confirmed cases of coronavirus in Northumberland so far. The Department for Education (DfE) have advised that no school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless advised to do by Public Health England. The NHS advise that there is no need to stay away from public places (self-isolate) unless advised to by the 111 online coronavirus service or a medical professional.

The best precaution for all of us to take is to ensure that we use good hygiene methods. We are reminding our pupils of this in an age appropriate way and are displaying additional notices around our schools.

If the situation changes, we will update you immediately but please be assured that we are active in our monitoring of the situation and in contingency planning for a range of possibilities. We have added links on the page below so that you can keep up to date with the latest advice.

Yours faithfully

Alan Hardie

Chief Executive

Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust



Northumberland Church of England
Academy Trust is a company limited by
Guarantee registered in England and Wales
with Company No: 6653439



Where can I find advice on coronavirus?

National Health Service (NHS)

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Public Health England / Gov.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

Department for Education (DfE)

The Department for Education has launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

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

OFQUAL / Gov.UK

This is the body that oversees exams for GCSE, BTEC, A level, etc. There are currently no plans to change any planned arrangements for the summer 2020 exams.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/updated-statement-on-coronavirus>