



Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

At this difficult time, we want to thank you for your continued support and reassure you that, as a Catholic Trust, we are doing our utmost to support all of our children and families. As you will be aware, the government has instructed schools throughout the country **to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice**. Over the coming days, the Trust phase 1 response plan will be rolled out and this initial phase will see all 26 school sites open to the students identified by Mr Williamson on Wednesday 18th March.

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers and children with particular needs:

The government has defined those as follows:

- Pupils who have a social worker and pupils with an educational health and care plan.
- Key workers: NHS staff police, others in frontline services and children with certain needs.

Please see link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

The government guidance clearly states that many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home and **every child who can be safely cared for at home should be**.



ST BEDES CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, A CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY
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PART OF THE NICHOLAS POSTGATE CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- 1) If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
- 2) If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a key worker, then educational provision will be available for them.**

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.

For those pupils attending school usual catering services will continue, although menu choices may differ.

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so whilst it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We will re-open fully as soon as we are directed to do so by the Government.

All schools within Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trusty (NPCAT) have detailed plans in place to ensure that your child's education is disrupted as little as possible while they are unable to attend their usual lessons.

Teachers will continue to set work and maintain communication with students through the school's electronic platform. As a school, we are using the following means to set work and communicate with pupils:

- Google classroom, apps such as TT Rockstars, the school website and Parentmail
- The curriculum intent will continue- with work set each day in the core subjects and at times with a cross curricular approach to learning. Learning resources will match our curriculum already planned for this term. The class teacher has outlined a timetable of learning with your child. This timetable will be used from March 23rd. Learning packs for all pupils have been sent home with the pupils.
- Contact can be made with the class teacher through google classroom, please note that this for curriculum purposes only, all general communication should be via school email: enquiries@stbedes.npcat.org.uk. There will be a weekly communication through telephone for each parent and child not in the school building.

If your child usually receives free school meals, we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.

We will also provide printed work for those children who do not have access to the internet.

We understand that parents and pupils who were due to sit examinations this summer will be particularly concerned about the measures the Government has taken. We will update you when we have more information from the Department for Education about this.

Please continue to monitor our school website www.stbedes.npcat.org.uk, and our Twitter feed [@StBedesMarske](https://twitter.com/StBedesMarske) where we will be posting regular updates. Parents please be assured, for those children that are not in school, we will provide weekly telephone communication, in addition to the online learning resources and distance learning being delivered by your school.

The coronavirus outbreak is an unprecedented situation that is affecting so many aspects of our everyday lives and we know that closing the school will cause considerable difficulties. Please be assured that we are doing everything we can to assist you and your family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

The St Bede's Senior Leadership Team