

12 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As you know we have provided updates regarding Covid 19 whenever the situation has changed. As of today, Thursday 12 March 2020, we have been told by parents that a few students are self-isolating. None of these students have come into contact directly with Covid 19, but have been advised to self-isolate as a precautionary step. In some cases students are isolating because a family member is particularly vulnerable due to a different medical condition and medical advice recommends the entire family self isolates. We will authorise absence in these circumstances.

We have been advised by the Kent County Council that we should treat absence in the following manner:

1. Public Health England (PHE) has ordered a student/pupil to not attend school and go into self-isolation.

The student/pupil must not attend school or any school activities. Use code Y.

2. A student/pupil has presented with Covid-19 symptoms and is in the care of the medical services.

The student/pupil must not return until given the all-clear by clinicians. Use code I.

3. A parent has informed the school that in their opinion, it is not safe for their child to go to school. PHE have not placed the school under any restrictions or advised to close. The school remains open.

The student/pupil should be in school. The appropriate non-attendance procedures should be enacted. The attendance code should be O, 'absence not authorised'. Note that the school should not agree for work to be sent home as this might be perceived as authorising non-attendance.

4. A school orders a partial or full closure, that is supported by PHE in light of an outbreak at or associated with the school.

Affected student/pupils should not attend school or any school activities. The code used should be Code Y.

5. The school is closed by local or national government decision.

No student/pupils should attend school or any school activities. The code used should be Code Y.

I fully understand that parents are concerned about the spread of the virus, however, please note that if a parent chooses not to send a child into school we will have to mark the absence as unauthorised.

I have held meetings with our cleaning contractors and they are utilising sprays which should provide up to 48 hours ongoing protection to surfaces. The academy prides itself on its cleanliness, we spend significantly more on cleaning than most schools and we shall be extra vigilant at this time.

I appreciate that this communication may be overtaken by governmental decisions but until that time we shall endeavour to provide as normal an educational provision as possible.

Wishing you all good health.

Yours sincerely



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