



St Joseph's Catholic Academy  
Member of the Newman Catholic Collegiate

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Acting Executive Principal- Mrs D Farmer  
Acting Head of School – Mrs R Wilson

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November

Dear Parent/Carer

Locally, there has been a change in guidance. It still remains the case that staff and children should not attend school if they are unwell. This includes the following symptoms:

- New continuous cough and/or
- High temperature
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

**If a member of the community has the above symptoms, they should have a test and not return until the result is known.**

In line with new advice from Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Local Authority.

Locally it now says that, if a person has the following symptoms, a test should be arranged. They can attend school but only if they are well enough to do so and only need to self-isolate if the test comes back positive:

- Headaches
- Aches and pains
- Feeling very tired for no good reason
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Sometimes 'tummy ache' in children

There are a number of testing sites across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent which can be booked online at [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) People can use the option of "my council has asked me to book a test" if they have the other symptoms.

**As a reminder:**

**What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19**

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.



If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

**For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.**

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

**How to stop COVID-19 spreading**

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

**Further Information**

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Please refer to the following link for the government's current guidance for parents on schools and colleges:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-earlyyears-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Please can you inform school if your child tests positive for coronavirus by contacting the school office.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Farmer  
Acting Executive Principal