



11<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

**Re: Coronavirus - COVID-19**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In a proactive response to the positive diagnosis of Coronavirus in Ireland, it is our aim to protect our pupils, their families, our staff and the wider community, where possible, from **contracting** or **transmitting** the virus.

The school has already taken several measures in a proactive response to the positive diagnosis of Coronavirus in Ireland. The pupils are advised at assembly of the importance of regular hand hygiene and we have installed alcohol gel dispensers around the school. Hand washing with warm soapy water is the number one way to prevent the spread of this infection. Pupils have been informed about the risk of touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. We encourage you as parent to reinforce this message within the home. The correct coughing technique has been demonstrated to the pupils and is another effective measure to prevent cross contamination. Coughing into the elbow in a downward motion is advised.

Our care takers and support staff have been given clear guidelines as recommended by the HSE on how to clean and disinfect all frequently touched surfaces.

We ask that any **pupil or family member** who has been in the affected areas of China or Northern Italy, to seriously consider self-isolating for the recommended 14 days in your own home. Any pupils who are at risk, directly or by being in close proximity to another person who has returned from Northern Italy, are exempt from attending school, for the health and safety of all concerned.

Close contact can mean spending more than 15 minutes within 2 metres of an infected person, or living in the same house or shared accommodation as an infected person.

If your daughter is ill in any way, please keep her at home until she is well. In the event that symptoms of a sore throat with a fever followed by a cough or shortness of breath develop, you are recommended to contact your GP by telephone. DO NOT present in person to your doctor. Instructions will be given to you over the phone.

**The Parents/Guardians of any Students who come into contact with the virus are asked to notify the school as soon as possible.**

**References:**

Health Service Executive <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/>

**Note:**

- In order to protect student health and minimise risk of exposure all external visitors to the school are to be curtailed except in case of emergency.
- The primary function of the school is core teaching – in order to safeguard core teaching all non-essential trips and events will be suspended.
- Staff are currently working to put plans in place to provide work by email to students in the event of a school closure. In this eventuality, Parents/Guardians are asked to ensure that Students are keeping up with their work from home.

Your sincerely,

Pat Curran

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Principal