

St Joseph's Catholic Academy

A Leading Edge Technology & Applied Learning College

Mill Lane, Hebburn, Tyne and Wear, NE31 2ET

Telephone: 0191 428 2700

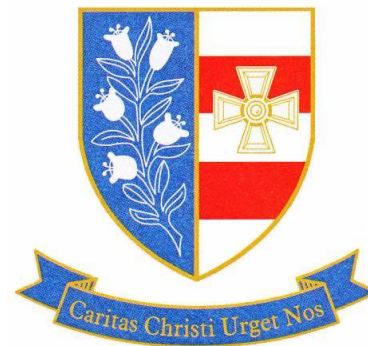
Email: Office@stjosephs.uk.net

Web: www.stjosephs.uk.net

Fax: 0191 428 4053

Acting Headteacher: Mr P Mitchell

Chair of Governors: Mrs G Kilgour



13 March 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I wish to inform you of our contingency plan should we be directed by the Government to close as part of a national response to the Covid-19 outbreak. The latest guidance from Public Health England can be found on our website.

Our top priority is maintaining the good health and safety of our whole school community, and we have been robustly managing hygiene practices in school. It is also essential that families observe the new national guidelines on not sending pupils into school with a high temperature/fever or a new persistent cough and to self-isolate for 7 days.

Should we be instructed to close we have already prepared work for every pupil. This can be accessed via our school website. This can be found by following 'School Life' and then 'Home Study Work'.

We are aware that for some families school is a source of a guaranteed meal for their child. We would like to direct families experiencing difficulties to community foodbank Hebburn Helps, Coleridge Square off Wordsworth Avenue NE31 1QD, 0191 489 9707. Our school is very proud of our close connection with Hebburn Helps and know they offer our community support.

We are also aware that a number of our students rely on support from school for their mental health wellbeing. We would like to remind families of Kooth which is a free, confidential online mental health service for children and young people that offers online counselling. Please follow the link to find out more: www.kooth.com

This is an unusual set of potential circumstances, but I do wish to assure all of our students and families that regardless of what may happen we have a comprehensive plan in place to ensure the impact on our students is minimised and to remember this disruption would be reflected as a national picture. We would continue to review our plan should a closure be instructed for a greater period of time than we currently anticipate.

This plan will only be successful though if students understand a closure is absolutely not a holiday and that students must meet our expectations to complete work set. If this happens, I am confident that by working in partnership between home and school our young people can come out of this period of turbulence without having their education adversely impacted.

If you have any queries about this information please contact school in the usual manner.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Mitchell

Acting Headteacher