

# The Joseph Whitaker School

*An Academy specialising in Sport and Performing Arts*

17<sup>th</sup> September 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Advice to all parents and carers of students at The Joseph Whitaker School**

We have been advised by Public Health England that there have been confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school - these cases relate to two siblings from the same household and one member of staff who has no contact with any students at the school.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

The small number of children who have been in direct prolonged contact with the confirmed cases will have received an individual letter and will be staying at home until Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (14 days since the close contact with the individual who has now received a positive test).

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend if they remain well.

Public Health England are content that we, as a school, have put all possible measures in place to limit the transmission of the virus. Directing those students, identified as close contacts, to self-isolate is a precautionary measure.

### **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. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

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.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.



Warsop Lane, Rainworth, Nottinghamshire NG21 0AG  
Telephone: 01623 792327 Facsimile: 01623 792419  
e-mail: [office@josephwhitaker.org](mailto:office@josephwhitaker.org) Website: [www.josephwhitaker.org](http://www.josephwhitaker.org)





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.

### Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

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

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> 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/>

Yours sincerely

*C M Ayres*

Carey Ayres  
Headteacher



Warsop Lane, Rainworth, Nottinghamshire NG21 0AG  
Telephone: 01623 792327 Facsimile: 01623 79241  
e-mail: [office@josephwhitaker.org](mailto:office@josephwhitaker.org) Website: [www.josephwhitaker.org](http://www.josephwhitaker.org)

