

Dear Staff, Parents and Carers,

17 March 2020 - Statement update from Nexus Education Schools Trust (NEST)

This information has been sent following the updated Government guidance on 16th March 2020.

The new government advice applies to those experiencing a new continuous cough, and/or high temperature above 37.8°C and also relates to other members in the same household. The advice states:-

Everyone in the household must self-isolate for 14 days if anyone has the following symptoms – a high temperature and/or a new persistent cough.

This means that in households where there is a member of the family with symptoms, even when others are not showing signs of illness, then all household members need to self-isolate and **pupils /staff must not attend school.**

Here is the link to the government advice:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

If anyone becomes ill during the school day they will also be sent home and asked to remain at home for 14 days, with all other household members.

Schools continue to remain open but, in line with government guidance, NEST has advised those members of staff in high risk categories to discuss their ongoing attendance with their Headteacher. High risk categories include staff members who are pregnant, those with underlying health issues and those aged seventy and over. Changes to staffing may affect class groups and lessons and schools are working hard to ensure learning continues.

Parents/carers of pupils with underlying health concerns should follow medical advice on their child's attendance at school. Pupils who are unable to attend school will be marked as absent due to exceptional circumstances. In line with the school protocol parents/carers should phone the school on the first day of any absence.

As an organisation we are aware of the impact that school closures may have on our communities, key workers and businesses which are reliant on Trust contracts. We are endeavouring to ensure that we are considerate and supportive of the needs of our school communities at this unprecedented time.

NEST schools are in the advanced stage of contingency planning and our Headteachers are currently working with staff to facilitate access to home learning activities. Families will be receiving guidance on how to access home learning if closures are announced.

NEST has recommended that all schools minimise the number of visitors on site. This includes parent/carers and volunteers, as well as those who run clubs or provide after school sports coaching.

NEST will continue to take action according to government advice and in the interest of the safety and wellbeing of all school members.

Yours sincerely

Paula Farrow

CEO NEST

Latest Government information

16 March Updates on Coronavirus: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>