The UK Government recently moved from its ‘contain’ to its ‘delay’ phase, which introduced new procedures to help slow the spread of Coronavirus. In response to this, we have updated our anti-infection spread plan.

Our plan has two main aims;

1. to encourage excellent hygiene
2. to limit our community’s potential exposure to the virus.

**Hygiene**

All the children have been taught to wash their hands correctly, they use warm water and soap to clean the front, back and individual fingers on their hands.

We have stocked all bathrooms with soap and have put in place additional antibacterial cleaning of frequently touched areas, such as door handles, every day.

We have agreed to prop all doors open so there is little need for children and staff to touch door handles.

To avoid spreading infection, NHS advice is:

Wash your hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds and whenever you:

- get home, or into work or school
- blow your nose, sneeze or cough
- eat or handle food

It is important to use soap and water or a hand sanitiser.

**Children at St Vincent’s wash their hands:**

- upon arrival to school
- after break and lunch time
- whenever they use the bathroom
- before eating
- if they sneeze, cough or blow their nose
- at other times as needed (with permission of the teacher)

Children are allowed to bring in hand sanitisers to school, and we suggest using them in addition to hand washing, not as a replacement.
Limiting our Exposure

Effective from 17th March, and until further notice, we will be implementing the following changes to the normal operation of the school.

• **If your child is experiencing a new, dry cough or a fever above 37.5 degrees, they must self-isolate for 7 days.** During self-isolation children should be at least 2 metres away from everyone at home. If this isn’t possible, please keep all siblings off school for 7 days too. **Only these absences will be authorised under a new code for these circumstances.** If children have alternative symptoms and are off school, they will be marked as absent.

**Please be as specific as you can when contacting the school office.**

• School will not employ supply/cover teachers for absences, as these staff will have visited other schools recently. Staff will not attend external training.

• We will be postponing all trips, gatherings and events for the foreseeable future. We are making enquiries into new dates, refunds and so on. Please give us time to complete these and contact affected families. **Just to confirm cancelled events coming up:**
  - Year 3 and 6 trip to the Hindu Temple
  - Year 3 Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes
  - Confessions
  - Parents’ PSHCE Information Evening (Wednesday 18th March)
  - Year 1 assembly
  - Reception Assembly

• Swimming sessions for Year 4 are cancelled - effective immediately.

• All Sports competitions and assemblies/liturgies are cancelled.

• All out of hours lettings are cancelled (this is when the school is used by other organisations).

• No volunteers will be allowed in school. This includes reading helpers, parents or others.

• No visitors or professionals will come to school. This includes, but is not limited to, SEN professionals, music instrumental teachers, or other planned visitors. Social Workers, for children known to their service, will visit away from the classrooms and limit their visits.

• All external clubs will be cancelled, with the **exception of Breakfast/After School Club** (due to them only serving St Vincent’s) Teacher led clubs will continue. Clubs cancelled include:
  - Kirrin Sports (gymnastics, basketball and multi skills)
  - Creative Sports (football on Monday/Thursday)
  - Trailfinders Community Programme (Fridays)
  - Chess Club
  - BEST club

**Possible Closures, and provision for children’s remote learning**

Current advice is for schools to remain open. However, if our staff numbers are unsafe we may be forced to close if the number of teachers self-isolating reaches a significant number that means we cannot safely operate. In this instance, and for children self-isolating at any time in the near future, teachers have prepared suggested work for each year group.

**Mr Buyers will be in touch, in a separate communication by the end of today, regarding learning opportunities for children self-isolating or in case we need to close. This will also be accessible on the school website.**
Latest Government Advice

Stay at home if you have coronavirus symptoms.

Stay at home for 7 days if you have either:

• a high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back

• a new, dry, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home. Testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home. Read our advice about staying at home.

Urgent advice: Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service if:

• you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home

• your condition gets worse

• your symptoms do not get better after 7 days Use the 111 coronavirus service Only call 111 if you cannot get help online.

Department for Education Coronavirus helpline Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Summary

We take the safety of all children and staff at St Vincent’s Catholic Primary School seriously, and will always put them first in our decision making. As the government and local authority send through any additional guidelines or advice, rest assured that we will act upon these promptly.

Mrs M. McCarthy

Headteacher