

## ST. AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

There has been further speculation in the media this weekend that the government may decide on the next steps in the 'delay' phase to prevent further spread of Covid-19 (Coronavirus).

Our key responsibility is the safety and wellbeing of everyone associated with the School, including pupils, staff, parents and family – immediate and extended and anyone else who contributes to the daily running of the school.

We are continually monitoring the advice and guidance from all the central and local agencies and will respond as necessary or required.

The current guidance is for us to continue as normal as possible, however, as the probability that either someone inside the school, or associated with the school through relatives, co-workers or extended community does test positive or follows the guidance to self-isolate then we need to have contingency plans in place.

At the time of writing, we have members of staff who have been requested to self-isolate as a precautionary measure. None of these staff members have been diagnosed (nor do they have symptoms) with having COVID-19.

Please follow the government guidelines below relating to any symptoms:

Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child (or anyone in your household) has any of the following symptoms they should remain at home for 7 days:

- a new, continuous cough and/or
- a temperature

Unfortunately, I have decided to implement the following actions as a preventative measure for our school:

1. All school trips requiring the use of Public Transport between now and 3<sup>rd</sup> April will be cancelled.
2. All concerts planned for later in the term have been cancelled.
3. Swimming lessons until April 3<sup>rd</sup> are cancelled.

The school leadership team are working through "what if" contingency plans which include:

- Identifying how we can protect as best we can any of our school community who may be more vulnerable to catching or sit in the higher risk of impact groups,
- Preparation of paper and online-based lesson plans, to be distributed in the event of a full or partial closure.

- A robust communication plan to ensure everyone is getting the same information, in a timely manner – we will send e-mails daily to keep you informed of the situation and how this is affecting the school.
- How we will deal with a reduction in staffing numbers due to isolation, which could include reducing the number of classes open across the school.

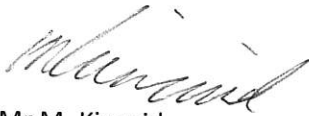
At this time we are not in a position to take the unilateral step to close the school – the situation is changing very quickly and we will react as necessary, but do ask for your understanding and support as we respond to new information, guidance and issues as they arise.

Potential school closures will have deeper impacts for our school community. If you are worried about food or finances over the coming weeks, then please make an appointment to come and see me. If I can help, then I will.

The unknown of the next few weeks is daunting for everyone; however, we must remember to stay calm. Pray when you feel worried, trust in God that he will watch over us all at this time.

Please do come and see me if you have any concerns or if you can offer help to others in anyway.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M. Kincaid  
Headteacher