



# Ashton Community Science College

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*'a school to be proud of'*

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11<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are continuing to review the most up to date information relating to COVID-19 on a daily basis. We receive updated information and guidance regularly from Lancashire local authority, Public Health England, Department for Education, NHS and Gov.uk.

Due to the pace of this ever-changing situation we suggest that you click the following links for the most up to date, 'live' information.

Updates on COVID-19: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

Guidance for educational settings: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

At the moment, the advice is that no school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England and that students should continue to attend school unless they present with symptoms of the virus. These symptoms include:

- ❖ Cough
- ❖ High temperature
- ❖ Shortness of breath

As a precautionary measure, parents will be contacted if any child displays any of the above symptoms and may be sent home.

However, if your child does display these symptoms, it does not necessarily mean that they have Coronavirus as they are similar to other common illnesses such as colds and flu. We would recommend you seek medical advice.

As a school we are being as proactive as we can. We are implementing the following actions;



- Ensuring each classroom has a box of tissues and antibacterial hand gel.
- Educating the students about the importance of washing hands with soap, regularly, for 20 seconds and to avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Advising students and staff to avoid close physical contact including handshakes.
- Putting appropriate advice around school. E.g., GOV.uk posters reminding students to wash their hands and promote good hygiene.
- Working with our cleaning staff to strengthen our regular, robust and thorough cleaning regime for regularly touched objects and surfaces e.g. door handles and handrails. This includes checking toilets hourly to ensure there is an adequate supply of soap.
- Careful contingency planning for possible changes to guidance as we move towards the 'delay phase' of the outbreak.
- Asking all visitors to sanitise their hands on entry and exit through reception.
- Keeping visitor movement to a minimum around the school.

You may be aware that some of our students have recently returned from a trip to Disneyland. The children travelled by coach and were not in any confined public space such as an airport or on a train. Although there has recently been a confirmed case in a member of maintenance staff there, colleagues were advised that this did not represent a health risk to either our staff or the students and the theme park remains open to the public. Whilst on the trip, staff ensured that students were subject to intense hand washing and hand sanitising practice.

This is a developing situation which we are constantly monitoring and we will, of course, keep you updated with any new information we receive.

We understand that you are rightly concerned about the continued spread of this virus, as we all are, and whilst we encourage open and honest dialogue relating to Coronavirus, we would ask that you only contact school in this regard if you have any specific information relating to a confirmed COVID-19 case in or around our school community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Asquith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Miss S Asquith  
Headteacher