



Whitburn Church of England Academy

An Academy with Specialist Status in Maths and Computing

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'Excellence for All'

16th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been great to see all of our students back at school last week and how sensible and responsible they have been safely moving around the site.

Attendance on Friday was magnificent and stood at 99.95%; which in these challenging times is an excellent achievement and one that all of us can be proud of.

The students have shown maturity and consideration for each other and have all abided by the rule of wearing a mask when being transient around the building for short periods in between lessons. Please can you support us by making sure that your child brings a mask each day?

School uniform generally has been very positive with most students looking smart and ready to learn. A small number of girls however have needed reminding about their skirt length and sanctions will be issued if the "knee touch" rule is not adhered to.

Please can parents and carers support the school with this matter as we do pride ourselves on being smart, presentable and excellent advocates for the school community.

At the time of writing, we have only had four days where the school has been full to capacity; however, we are reviewing the effectiveness of our risk assessment on a daily basis. Desks in all classrooms are wiped down and disinfected between lessons by teaching staff and students are sanitising their hands on arrival into classrooms.

This all ensures that we are able to operate as safely as we can in the constraints of our building and promote good hygiene by encouraging regularly handwashing and limiting contact with any other group of children outside their own year group bubble.

We have been receiving a small number of telephone calls asking for guidance from us regarding students who are unwell or have been close to somebody who has been unwell.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

For most people, especially children, COVID-19 will be a mild illness.

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

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or

Document available in large font, alternative language or audio format on request



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- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child develops any of these symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home and arrangements should be made for them to be tested. At that time all other household members must also stay at home, not go to work, school or public areas, even for exercise. Testing can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

When the result of the child's test is known further advice will be available.

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:

- 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 www.nhs.uk/coronavirus. I have also attached a helpful 'Covid-19 Guide for parents/carers' that was provided by Public Health today.

Please can I remind parents and carers not to drive onto the school site at the start and the end of the day as we are trying to keep the amount of visitors to a minimum. If you do have a permit to drive onto the site, please show this to the member of staff who will be stationed on the gate. If you wish to speak to a member of staff, please phone in advance or use the school email address to make contact in the first instance. Thank you for your support with this matter.

I know that we have testing times ahead, but I am sure that you will agree getting our students safely back into full time schooling has been essential. We have had to make many changes to how we manage and organise the students, however there is no real substitute for the teacher and student in the classroom. Staff are still posting work on our Microsoft Teams platform and we are currently creating new teams groups based on our new year groups. We will continue to develop our use of Teams to support students learning at home. We intend to offer advice to parents and carers on how to use Teams effectively to help support your child.

Thank you for your continued support and suggestions throughout these turbulent times and I will continue to update you in due course with any new developments or changes.

Yours faithfully



J E Crowe
Principal