



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

Executive Headteacher/CEO: Alun Williams

Registered Address: Norton Hill School, Charlton Road, Midsomer Norton, BA3 4AD
Company No: 7365778

16th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Given that the development of the Coronavirus outbreak across the UK is changing very rapidly, I thought I would write to update you again on how we as a Trust are responding.

To reassure you, we are taking the following actions in all our schools:

- 1) Increasing the frequency of cleaning in certain parts of the schools, e.g. toilets, door handles, etc.
- 2) Where sensible, cancelling or postponing calendared events e.g. Parent Consultation Evenings, assemblies/collective worship and some UK trips.
- 3) Ensuring primary school children are being helped to wash their hands properly and regularly.

We have been informed that schools should continue to operate as normal and avoid altering significantly the way that we work. This is because it is important for children to see normality where possible, so that they do not become frightened and anxious. Clearly, some children and staff may have to self-isolate, but at this point attendance remains relatively high across all schools for both children and adults. At this point, schools in the Trust are operating as normal. Naturally, we will continue to review the situation as it develops in each of the schools and keep you informed.

Advice from Public Health England is very clear to you as parents/carers and to us in schools if self-isolation is required – 'any children, staff, volunteers, etc. who display the symptoms of Coronavirus, in particular a fever and/or continuous cough, must now self-isolate for 7 days'. If staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, you will be contacted and they will be sent home.

For clarity, Public Health England guidance on self-isolation and how to separate yourself from the others you live with is as follows:

- You should remain in your home. Do not go to work, school, or public areas, and do not use public transport or taxis.
- Aim to stay in a well-ventilated room with a window that can be opened. Try to keep the window open as much as possible to enable ventilation and airflow as this will help to keep clean air moving through your room.
- Try to separate yourself from other people in your home and keep the door closed. If you cannot stay in a separate room, aim to keep 2 metres (3 steps) away from the other people in your house.
- Try to keep yourself separated from other people as much as possible, and make sure everyone regularly follows the steps in this guidance (cleaning your hands, not touching your face and cleaning surfaces for example).
- Use your own toothbrushes, eating and drinking utensils (including cups and glasses in the bathroom and bedroom), dishes, towels, washcloths or bed linen. Do not share food and drinks.
- If you have a garden, it is fine to use it as long as you keep 2 metres away from other members of your household. If possible they should use the outside area separately.





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Obviously, we are receiving a very large number of calls in schools about the Coronavirus and I ask that you are patient with all members of staff. In most cases, they will have access to the same information that you have. Thank you for your continued support and as the situation changes, I will write with further updates.

Kind regards

Alun Williams
CEO

Latest Public Health Guidance:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

