



Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

Ref:O/KRParLet/2019-20/CoronaV/jsn

16th March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

The continued spread of the coronavirus creates unprecedented challenges for all of us. As a school we are continuing to monitor the circumstances with the intention of taking proactive steps to try and help us to mitigate the risks and also prepare for the challenges that are yet to come.

I have taken the decision today that with immediate effect, we will not use external supply teachers to cover lessons should the need arise. This decision has been taken to minimise the risk presented by having temporary staff within the school who may well have been working across a broader range of schools.

To help manage the necessity of any additional cover in school, we have cancelled all non-essential meetings and training requirements and will endeavour to ensure that we operate on a normal school timetable.

However, in the event of any unplanned absence, we may be in a position where we need to operate with contingency plans and provide your child with supervised, independent study. At no time will we ever compromise the safety of our pupils but I wanted you to be aware that under these circumstances, we may need to be flexible in the provision that is in place.

I anticipate that this will be a rare occurrence but nonetheless wanted to inform you. I hope that you understand the exceptional circumstances within which we are operating and that decisions are being taken as a precautionary measure to help manage risks.

The risks presented globally and nationally by the coronavirus are apparent and whilst we continue to operate under the advice of the government and Health England, it is important that we assess the risks and take every possible precaution.

I would like to take this opportunity to advise all parents/carers to evaluate the risks presented for themselves. If by attending school, your child is placing either themselves or a member of their family at a greater risk due to any vulnerabilities, then you should consider whether it is appropriate to keep them off.

Whilst school continues to be open and operational, we do of course expect the majority of students to continue to attend as normal, however, please evaluate the risks and take the decision that is best for you.

Equally, if your child has demonstrated any of the symptoms of the virus, or if they have been in contact with anyone who is self-isolating, then please contact NHS111 and keep them off school. We do not want any student attending who is presenting symptoms and will take the decision to send them home if they do.

I would like to note that we are not currently aware of any confirmed cases of coronavirus within our wider school community, we are taking every precaution to maintain the safety and well-being of all staff, students and their families and therefore I thank you for your understanding and support.

I will endeavour to keep you informed if the position changes at any time.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Rowlands', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

K. Rowlands
Headteacher