



12th November 2020

Dear Parent / Carers

RE: Closure of class groups due to teacher COVID-19 self-isolation – Notice of new process

I hope that this letter finds you well as we have seen our national lockdown be enforced, and new guidance be published to all aspects to 'normal' life. The situation regarding COVID-19 has been unsettling to most of us and has had a massive impact to school life, which I know has affected your child/ young person considerably. We are thankful to you as parent carers in how you have helped us to keep our environments COVID secure and supported your child/young person in preparing them as best we can for how we navigate the restrictions that are set out for us to follow.

You may be aware that our staff have also been affected by the issues of the pandemic in both their home and professional life, which has meant that individuals have needed to shield/ self-isolate. Until now, we have managed this drop in staffing by reallocating staff where there is a drop in the number of pupils present, or through supply staff. However, it is with regret that I'm writing to let you know that the number of staff this now affects is too great to manage in this way without the situation becoming unsafe in school.

For this reason, I am writing to let you know that we have been forced to make the decision to close class groups in the event of a teacher self-isolating. Pupils in the affected class groups will be asked to stay at home and participate in distance learning, led by the self-isolating teacher.

As before, school will be open to children/ young people of key workers and those identified by school as socially vulnerable within these affected class groups. Education will be delivered via Zoom from the class teacher and supported by the support staff on-site. We will call you to confirm this position regarding your child/young person if this situation occurs.

We will notify you if this situation affects your child/young person's class group.

We have tried our best to avoid this scenario and we are devastated that the situation has come to this, however we will always prioritise the needs and safety of our young person and support the specific needs of our families as best we can. We assure you that we have not taken this decision lightly and we welcome your thoughts and ideas of how we move forwards through this new challenge.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Best regards

Sabrina Hobbs

Principal