



Inspire to Aspire

Mercian Educational Trust
Malvern Vale Primary School
Swinyard Road
Malvern
WR14 1GU
Tel: 01684 574497
office@metacademies.co.uk
Chief Executive Officer
Dafydd Lawday

Monday 16th January

COVID-19 Updated Guidance from the Department for Education

Dear parents and carers,

To reassure parents and to answer some of the questions we are getting in the school offices on a daily basis, we will be sending out any new guidance we receive from the Department for Education.

Our schools are following the latest guidance regarding the prevention of the spread of the virus, and administrators are ensuring that the appropriate absence codes are used due to this exceptional circumstance.

Schools are:

- Ensuring children are washing hands regularly and thoroughly using soap, especially when they re-enter the classrooms. Supervising young children directly to ensure they are washing hands carefully.
- Reducing large gatherings of people, such as collective assemblies, parents' evenings and parent workshop sessions
- Supporting the recommendation of self-isolation for any children or adults who display any of the symptoms: a new continuous cough or a high temperature.
- Cleaning surfaces and touched objects regularly

Our schools will not be closing unless we receive direction from the government or Public Health England to do so, or if levels of staffing reduce to the point where opening would be unsafe.

Today, the Department for Education and Public Health England have issued updated guidance for education settings on COVID-19. This guidance will assist staff in addressing COVID-19 in educational settings. This includes childcare, schools, further and higher educational institutions.

What you need to know:

- staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal
- if staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home
- clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using your standard cleaning products
- supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water or hand sanitiser and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues

The updated guidance can be found here:

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

Current advice remains in place: no education or children's social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools on both children's education and on the workforce would be substantial, but the benefit to public health may not be. Decisions on future advice to education or children's social care settings will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.

Best wishes,

Dafydd Lawday
(Chief Executive Officer)

