



Mr G Panayiotou – CEO & Headteacher
Mr A Fletcher – Chair of Trustees

Castleford Academy Trust
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Dear Parent/Carer,

We are aware that some parents, carers and pupils are anxious about what’s being called the “Coronavirus” and the stories in the press about schools closing or keeping pupils off. We wanted to provide some clarification on the actions we are taking as an academy.

It is important to note that viruses such as the coronaviruses are quite common across the world. This particular strain can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems and there is no evidence that children are more affected than other age groups – very few cases have been reported in children.

Last night, the Department for Education issued guidance to schools and as an academy, we will be following this guidance. The full guidance can be found at:

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

We currently have **no confirmed cases** of COVID-19 (the Coronavirus) so there is no reason to close the school or keep any pupils off. If there are any confirmed cases, Public Health England will contact us and issue guidance on next steps.

The current guidance is to avoid infection like you would with any cold or virus by:

- washing hands often with soap and water (or alcohol sanitiser),
- covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing it in the bin.
- Essentially, “Catch it, Bin it, Kill it.”

If your child has travelled to North Italy (North of Pisa), then they are still advised to come in to school if they are feeling well. If your child has visited here and have flu-like symptoms (cough, difficulty in breathing, fever), they should self-isolate for 14 days.

If your child has visited any of the following places however, they will need to self-isolate for 14 days whether they feel well or not.

Northern Italy	China	Republic of Korea (S Korea)
In the Lombardy Region: Bertonico Casalpusterlengo Castelgerundo Castiglione D'Adda Codogno Fombio Maleo San Fiorano Somaglia Terranova dei Passerini In the Veneto Region: Vo	Hubei province (includes Wuhan)	Daegu Metropolitan City Cheongdo County



We are not currently aware of any staff or pupils at Castleford Academy who have visited these areas. If you think that your child has visited these areas, please contact the academy immediately.

Please rest assured that the safety and welfare of pupils and staff is of paramount importance. We will continue to follow guidance from the DfE and Public Health England. If this advice changes, we will let you know.

Many thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Panayiotou', written in a cursive style.

Mr Panayiotou
CEO & Headteacher