



SEDBERGH
SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1525

Sedbergh Schools' response to the risk presented by Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Statement No 8 issued on 13 March 2020

We were pleased to hear the Government's measured statement on the country's progression from the Contain to Delay phase late on Thursday afternoon. The UK is fortunate to benefit from information from other countries that are ahead on infection rates so that it can plan its response based on patterns of transmission and take effective controls.

Schools have not been asked to close and it would currently be counter-productive to do so. Given the lengthy nature of the campaign necessary to combat the epidemic, it is also important that normal activities continue so far as reasonably possible. Sedbergh School and Casterton Sedbergh Prep School will continue to operate according to their normal schedules with slight adjustments to avoid the use of public transport and major gatherings in large urban areas.

The Government has directed that individuals who have recently started to suffer from a new onset temperature of 37.8°C and above, and a new persistent cough (dry or otherwise) for over 4 hours and without explanatory conditions should be isolated immediately.

We will implement these measures as follows:

- Any member of staff who features these symptoms should not attend work and remain at home. This includes boarding House staff who must stay in their accommodation or leave the premises and live elsewhere for the duration of quarantine.
- Pupils who display symptoms will be checked by Assistant Housemasters/mistresses and then be isolated. Pastoral care is uppermost in our minds and we will make sure pupils are cared for and supported during any period of isolation.

We will ask parents to collect their son/daughter because an extended period of isolation within a boarding House is impractical and detrimental to individual well-being. International pupils will be required to travel to their Guardian.

In the unusual event that a pupil cannot return to a family member or Guardian, the School will make the best possible arrangements to care for them in isolation but will prioritise the safety of the community.

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The Government has made a statement about overseas school trips. We are discussing this with relevant travel companies and will communicate the outcome of those discussions with parents at the earliest opportunity.

Meanwhile, we have completed our training for remote teaching such that all staff and pupils are informed how to use Microsoft Teams or have other provisions appropriate to their age. Irrespective of whether schools are required to close or not, pupils will go through a process of collecting work from all their teachers before departure so that they are fully prepared for revision during the holidays and also for the possibility that the school re-opens later than planned after Easter.

We foresee that next week will progress without disruption and now hope that we will be able to conclude term in the normal manner.

Andrew Fleck
Principal

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