



SEDBERGH
SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1525

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

Statement No 4 issued on 2 March 2020

The news over the weekend highlights that the spread of the Coronavirus Covid-19 has developed into a new phase in the UK with evidence of infection taking place where individuals have no known contact with an identified source. We have also heard politicians discussing the prospect of school closure and the isolation of cities.

In the first instance this letter is to reassure you that we are implementing the steps outlined in my last letter which restricts our contact with high risk areas and individuals who have been in those areas. We are especially grateful to families and individuals who have changed their plans as a result of our policy and are supporting pupils who are directly impacted by these changes. I expect to have a full schedule of pupils' holiday plans very shortly and, whilst we recognise that many families will change these in response to the threat, members of staff will shortly contact families where we have concern about what is planned.

We have also implemented an elevated cleaning programme around the School which has proved effective when we have encountered other viral outbreaks, such as Norovirus in the past. Handwashing, antiseptic gels and paper towels are all in place throughout the School in accordance with best practice advised by Public Health authorities and the School Medical Centre. The School Medical Centre also has testing facilities for the virus, to be deployed only within its usual patient cohort including our pupils.

We have also been working on the Schools' response in the event that the Government closes schools or restricts movement, and our provision for pupils to remain in the Schools during the Easter holiday rather than return home or stay with a Guardian.

I shall write again once our plans are clear or when the national situation changes.

Andrew Fleck
Principal

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