

Coronavirus (Covid-19): Frequently Asked Questions

We have put together a list of frequently asked questions to help parents through the spread of the coronavirus (Covid-19). We are alert to the fact that the advice is changing regularly at the moment so please do keep checking government websites and we will also endeavour to send updates if anything significant changes. If you still have further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at office@theswanschool.org.uk and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Will schools close?

- We intend to stay open unless we are required to close by the government. This may be as a part of a measure to close all schools or advice from Public Health England which may only apply to some schools.

How long will schools close for?

- It is very hard to say. We will follow government advice and close for as long as needed. We will keep parents informed via our website.

My child only has a slight cough or fever. Is it OK for them to come to school?

- No. It is important that everyone follows government advice and that your child stays at home - this is currently to self-isolate for 14 days if they have symptoms or live with someone showing symptoms. This is in the best interests of the child as well as the school community.

I do not want to send my child to school. Is that OK?

- Children should continue to attend school as normal unless they are self-isolating under guidance from the government (currently if they are showing symptoms or live with someone who has been showing symptoms). The advice from the government is that your child should attend school as normal and continue their learning.

Will school closure affect my child's attendance record?

- No. If a student is self-isolating, it will not impact their attendance. We will look at other reasons for absence on a case by case basis.

My child has underlying health conditions. Can I keep them at home?

- There are children that the coronavirus may have a greater impact on if they have underlying health conditions. The current advice from the government is that everyone should continue to attend as normal but we ask you to contact the school to discuss your child's personal circumstances.

I've heard that exams are going to be cancelled / delayed. Is that true?

- There is no firm decision from the government at the moment. It is best not to speculate and wait until the government makes a formal announcement. As we only have year 7 students, public exams are not yet relevant for us, but we understand that our students may have siblings who are affected.

My child is very worried about coronavirus. Who can they speak to?

- Many members of the school community are available for additional support. Children can speak to their form tutor, co-tutor, or Ms Walton (our pastoral support champion) if they would like additional support.

What is the school doing to keep pupils safe?

- We have increased the amount of cleaning that takes place during the school day, particularly in areas that have high contact for students. Tissues and hand sanitiser are available in all classrooms.
- All visitors to the school are now asked to declare that they have not visited a high-risk area or have any known symptoms, all visitors must use hand sanitiser when they arrive.
- We have also organised pastoral activities to promote good hygiene habits and we ask parents to support us in this.
- We have stopped shaking hands at the start of lessons and shifted our lunchtime to allow all students time to wash their hands before lunch.

Will trips and other events still be going on?

- Trips and gatherings in the immediate future have been cancelled to avoid unnecessary large gatherings. We will review the situation as time goes on but we hope that the year 7 camp in July will still be able to go ahead.

What can I do as a parent?

- Please speak to your child about the coronavirus and reiterate the key messages we have covered in assemblies about staying safe. They are:

- Additional hand washing, especially before eating and after using toilets.
- Always coughing / sneezing into a tissue and disposing of it in a bin immediately.
- Avoid touching their face, and especially their eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid contact with others by not shaking hands, etc.
- Don't share drinks, bottles or plates.

How will my child continue learning if the school is closed?

- As a parent, the easiest way that you could support your child is by making sure that they have access to a computer and a quiet space to learn. This will enable them to access online materials and emails from their teachers so that they can continue their learning as best as possible in the given circumstances. This does not need to be an expensive device; anything with internet access should be sufficient.
- Learning resources will be made available through Google Classroom, which all students can access at home. We are looking at ways to make sure that it is very clear to both students and parents/carers what should be done each day.

If I don't have a computer at home, how can I help my child continue their learning?

- We have conducted a student survey to find out which students do not have access to IT at home and will be loaning out school resources, if widespread closure or student absence necessitates it.

We are due to go on holiday over Easter. Should we still go?

- You should check the advice given to you by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office about traveling abroad. If you travel against their advice, you may be required to keep your child at home when they return.

How long will this last for?

- It's very hard to say, but it is likely disruption will last for many weeks and maybe months. Please continue to check our website regularly.

Where can I get more information?

- There is more information on our [website](#). Parents can also get information from the official Government webpages below:
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>
 - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>