Dear Parents and Carers,

In the light of the ongoing Coronavirus outbreak, we are sharing the most up to date guidance from Public Health England. This advice is updated on a daily basis, and we will share any significant changes with you, and you may wish to check the website yourself at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public

The guidance is updated at 2.00 p.m. each day.

Some countries and regions have different implications for people coming into the UK, and these specific areas have been categorised at Category 1 or Category 2.

Anyone entering the UK from the following areas (Category 1 countries) since February 19 MUST stay indoors and call NHS111 even if they have no symptoms:

- Iran
- Specific lockdown areas in Northern Italy as designated by the Government of Italy*
- Special care zones in South Korea as designated by the Government of the Republic of South Korea
- Hubei province (returned in the past 14 days)

* The specified towns (see inset map) are in the regions of Lombardy and Veneto.

In the Lombardy Region:

- Bertonico
- Casalpusterlengo
- Castelgerundo
- Castiglione D'Adda
- Codogno
- Fombio
- Maleo
- San Fiorano
- Somaglia
- Terranova dei Passerini

Connect Schools Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.
In the Veneto Region:

- Vo

Yellow area – no special measures

Orange area – specified towns (see inset and listed above) are Category 1. Otherwise orange areas are category 2.

Travellers returning from the following areas (Category 2 countries) do not need to self-quarantine unless they develop any symptoms, in which case they should stay at home and call NHS111:

This includes:
- Cambodia
- China (other than Wuhan city or Hubei province)
- Hong Kong
- Italy: north* (see the map above – plain orange)
- Japan
- Laos
- Macau

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Government advice is specific that people returning from these areas do NOT need to avoid contact with other people.

We are aware that there are children in Trust schools who have returned from holiday in affected countries, but so far, these have all been from Category 2 countries and regions where there is no requirement to self-quarantine. These children can and should be in school. We expect all children to be in school unless they are unwell, and any absence that is not for an illness directly affecting a student will be unauthorised, and our Educational Welfare Officer will be advised.

The best way to reduce the risk of passing on Coronavirus (or any other infection) is through good hand hygiene. Washing your hands properly removes dirt, viruses and bacteria to stop them spreading to other people and objects. We will continue to underline the importance of hand washing with the children, and have been telling them that they should wash their hands for the amount of time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice (around 20 seconds). We will continue to monitor and maintain soap levels in all the toilets and classrooms.

To help prevent the spread of infection, make sure you and your children follow these general principles to prevent spreading any respiratory virus:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use sanitizer gel if soap and water is not available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and don’t attend work or school
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home
- If you’re worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 – don’t go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment

Yours sincerely

Andrea Carter
CEO