

5th March, 2020



EDINBURGH
STEINER
SCHOOL

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS

COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

This statement sets out the School's approach to maintaining an awareness of the COVID-19 virus, including our responsibilities to pupils and staff as an educational setting.

As of 5th March, COVID-19 remains within the 'containment' phase in the UK. Edinburgh Steiner School is following government and public health body advice to respond proportionately and appropriately according to national guidelines.

The School has an 'infectious diseases' policy, which forms part of the Medication Policy (available on the School's website). This policy, which is compatible with the latest government advice for COVID-19, summarises how the School will respond if there are any cases of COVID-19 in the school community.

Infectious Diseases

The School has a duty to ensure that pupils' health is not put at unnecessary risk from, for example, infectious diseases. Parents should inform the School immediately if their child is diagnosed with or suspected of having an infectious disease. The School may decide to inform some or all parents of children in the School, usually via email.

The School does not have to accept a child in school at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child or others to do so.

Advice from the [Government's dedicated website](#) for educational settings establishes the following protocols:

If anyone has been in contact with a suspected case in a childcare or educational setting, no restrictions or special control measures are required while laboratory test results for COVID-19 are awaited.

There is no need to close the setting or send other learners or staff home.

This is in line with our assumption, unless advised otherwise, that the School will maintain a 'business as usual' approach. Should that advice change, parents will be informed. In the meantime, sanitiser and wipes will be available to disinfect surfaces and door handles throughout the School. Pupils will be reminded of the importance of washing their hands.

The School has a detailed Business Continuity Plan (last reviewed and updated in 2017) which risk assesses the most severe threats to the School and members of the school community. A risk assessment for a scenario such as COVID-19 exists and contingency plans have been made.

However, our 'proportionate' approach takes into account the nature of this virus and how it is believed to be spread. According to the Government:

There is no evidence that children are more affected than other age groups – very few cases have been reported in children.

There is currently no good evidence that people who do not have symptoms are infectious to others.

Nevertheless, there are particular concerns among some parents, staff and pupils about a number of planned trips overseas. The teachers of the Classes which might be affected have asked for further clarification from, for example, insurers, and the School's Management and administration team and doing everything they can to establish a clear picture before any decisions are made. Decisions will take into account advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which is frequently updated.