

Newchurch Community Primary School  
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Dear parent/carer,

As we are hearing more and more about positive cases, we thought it appropriate to give a little more clarity on when a school would need to ask a class to isolate and work remotely, thus implementing our contingency plan. In all instances of the school finding out a member of our Newchurch Family (parents and siblings as well as pupils) are positive with COVID-19 we have contacted the Local Authority, the Department of Education Helpline or Public Health to check the action needed.

There are a number of scenarios that could happen...

**Scenario 1:** A member of the household informs us that they are symptomatic. At that point the child is asked to isolate until the member of the household has received their results. If the results are negative, then the child is able to return to school.

**Scenario 2:** A member of the household informs us that they are symptomatic so the child is asked to isolate until the results are received. If the results are positive, then the child will be asked to isolate for 14 days and work will be set via Google Classroom.

**Scenario 3:** A member of the household informs us that they are symptomatic so their child is asked to isolate until the results are received. If the results are positive, then the child will be asked to isolate for 14 days. If the child then becomes symptomatic, and this is less than 48 hours since they have been in school, the child needs to take a test. If the test is negative, then no further action is taken.

**Scenario 4:** A member of the household informs us that they are symptomatic so their child is asked to isolate until the results are received. If the results are positive, then the child will be asked to isolate for 14 days. If the child then becomes symptomatic, and this is less than 48 hours since they have been in school, the child needs to take a test. If the test is positive, then the school will contact parents and the class will be asked to isolate for 14 days from the point at which they were in close contact with the positive case. Public Health, the Department of Education and the Local Authority will be informed prior to informing parents and swift action taken based on the advice given.



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Our level of diligence goes as far as being in touch with families over the weekend, who fall within the period of infection (48 hours), to ensure that the school can implement the contingency plan as soon as is humanly possible. We implemented our contingency plan for Year 2 within one hour of being informed by the parent that their child had tested positive. This was on a Sunday morning. Without the partnership and commitment of this child's parents, we could not have possibly acted so quickly.

During challenging times like these, when our precious friends and families are at risk, it is understandable that anxiety levels are heightened when we hear of positive cases which are 'close to home'. However, we do hope that this reassures any concerns parents (and grandparents) may have regarding the action the school will take in these challenging times. At all times, we act in line with the guidance and in the interests of the children and families of Newchurch, taking into consideration vulnerable members of staff, children and also family members. If there is deemed to be any risk, the school will always err on the side of caution.

Of course, we want to keep our children in school as much as possible so it is important that we all continue to work together to keep to the rules so our lovely school community remains safe. We are filled with gratitude towards the parents who trust us to make those decisions, work with us by keeping their children off if a member of their household is symptomatic and awaiting a test, and also keeping us informed of the outcome of tests as soon as possible.

More than ever our core values of respect, responsibility, resourcefulness, resilience, reciprocity and reflection will guide us through the decisions we make and help our Newchurch family continue to work through these unprecedented times safely, deliberately and together.

With kindest regards,



Mrs Jayne Narraway

Head Teacher



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