St Michael’s PS, Dunnamanagh

9th March, 2020

Dear Parent,

Like yourselves, we are trying to read an ever-changing set of facts in relation to coronavirus. We have taken this information from the Public Health Agency just today at lunch-time. We would ask you to read it and also refer to the Public Health Agency website yourselves for further advice:

**COVID-19 (Coronavirus) - Guidance to educational settings in Northern Ireland**

*Updated 05 March 2020*

**What to do if pupils, students or staff in your early years or educational setting have travelled from any Category 1 specified country/area in the past 14 days**

See pha.site/coronavirus for a list of current risk areas and categories.

If an individual falls into this category, contact NHS 111 for further advice:

• if they are currently well they should self-isolate for 14 days and you should follow the advice as above for contacts of confirmed cases in the educational setting.

• if they become unwell please call NHS 111 immediately for them to be assessed by an appropriate specialist. You should follow the advice as above for contacts of confirmed cases in the educational establishment. If they require emergency medical attention, call 999 and tell the call handler or ambulance control that the person has a history of recent travel to risk areas for COVID-19.

**What to do if a pupil, student or staff member has travelled from a Category 2 specified country/area in the last 14 days**

See pha.site/coronavirus for a list of current risk areas and categories.

**If they are currently well:**

• they are advised to self-isolate only if they develop symptoms

they can continue to attend work or education

• they do not need to avoid contact with other people

• their family do not need to take any precautions or make any changes to their own activities

• testing people with no symptoms for COVID-19 is currently not recommended

• it is useful to always take a mobile phone with them when they go out so that they can contact others if they do become unwell.

**If they become unwell:**

• they should stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as they would with other flu viruses)

• they (or a family member, colleague or member of staff) should call NHS 111 immediately for them to be assessed by an appropriate specialist, as quickly as possible

• they should stay at home and should not attend work or education

• they should not go directly to their GP or other healthcare environment

• if they require emergency medical attention, call 999 and tell the call handler or ambulance control that the person has a history of recent travel to risk areas for COVID-19

• see further information on the **Public Health Agency** website

**What to do if pupils, students or staff return from travel anywhere else in the world within the last 14 days**

Currently there are minimal cases outside the risk areas and therefore the likelihood of an individual coming into contact with a confirmed case is low.

There is no need to advise any of these pupils, student or staff to avoid normal activities or educational settings unless they have had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

If individuals are aware that they have had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 they should contact NHS 111 for further advice.

Category 1 and 2 countries are listed on the public health agency website.

Having read this information, I would ask all parents and children who travel, to apply these to their own situation before deciding if it is suitable for your child to return to school, bearing in mind our priority is to prevent or at least minimise the impact of coronavirus on our community. **Please consider if you need to self-isolate. Pupils will be marked present under these conditions.**

Thank you for your co-operation.

*J Carlin (Mrs)*

*Principal*