



27 February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

**Federation Statement Coronavirus (COVID-19) as at 26 Feb 20**

The Mendip Edge Federation has worked with the Wessex Learning Trust to provide the following advice for families:-

Following the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Federation wishes to reassure those within our schools that at this time there is no cause for concern. We are keeping up to date with government advice and continue to actively monitor the situation.

Although it is unlikely that anyone within the Federation will come into contact with an infected person, the best advice is for individuals to remain vigilant of their own health, take appropriate precautions to minimise the potential spread of illness, and - if they feel unwell or present the symptoms of COVID-19 - to self-isolate and call NHS 111. If you think you may be ill, it is important to not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment but instead seek advice over the phone of what to do.

Regarding travel to affected regions, government guidelines state that any individual who has visited a Category 1 country: China (in particular Wuhan city and Hubei Province); Iran; the Republic of Korea (in particular Daegu or Cheongdo) or any Italian town under containment measures (broadly North of Pisa, Florence and San Marino – see attached map) within the last 14 days should self-isolate, even if asymptomatic, and call NHS 111 to inform of their recent travel.

Individuals who have recently travelled to a Category 2 Country: Cambodia, Hong Kong, Japan, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam; or lesser affected parts of Italy (i.e. South of and including Pisa, Florence and San Marino), China or the Republic of Korea need not take any special measures unless they develop symptoms – in which case they should self-isolate and call NHS 111.

At present there is no need for individuals to limit their foreign travel (except to particularly affected regions), however up-to-date guidelines can be sought from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

All pupils and staff should continue to attend school unless they have returned from a Category 1 location within the last 14 days, have a reason to believe they may be infected, or begin to exhibit symptoms. All our schools have procedures in place in line with government guidelines to deal with anyone they become concerned about.

The following symptoms may develop in the 14 days after exposure to someone who has the COVID-19 infection:

- coughing
- difficulty breathing
- fever



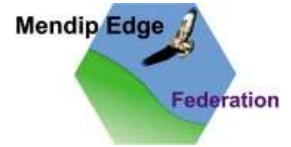
Fairlands Middle School

Masons Way, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3PG, Tel: (01934) 743186 Fax: (01934) 744457 Absence Line: (01934) 743908  
E-Mail: [office@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk](mailto:office@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk) Website: [www.fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk](http://www.fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk)

Headteacher: Stefan McHale  
Deputy Headteachers: Helen Heffernan and Kate Persaud  
Associate Leaders: Robert Cooling and Matthew Vincent SENDCo

**Safeguarding Children is everyone's responsibility.**

If you are worried about any child please make an appointment to see either Helen Heffernan, Designated Safeguarding Lead or Robert Cooling, Felicity Grant, Sally Virgin, Designated Safeguarding Deputies  
Alternatively, you can phone NPSCC: 0808 800 5000 Somerset Direct: 0300 123 2224



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Naturally, however, with no cases having been reported in the South-West of England, it is worth bearing in mind that regular coughs and colds are naturally commonplace at this time of year, and that these pose no more risk now than at any other time.

We will continue to remind pupils of the importance of good hygiene, and encourage parents to ensure their children are coming to school with tissues, and that at home normal rules of covering one's nose and mouth when coughing/sneezing, washing hands regularly etc. are instilled in children.

For the most up-to-date information please see the gov.uk website. Up to date guidance for schools can be found by following the link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

We thank you for your continued vigilance in regards to this situation, and will continue to distribute advice where appropriate. We would like to reassure you once again, however, that there is no cause for concern at the present time, and that vigilance and sensible precautions are the best policies to follow.

Map showing specified areas of Italy, as of 26 February 2020.



**Yellow area** – no special measures

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

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

In the Lombardy Region:

- Bertinico
- Casalpusterferengo
- Castelgerundo
- Castiglione D'Adda
- Codogno
- Fombio
- Maleo
- San Fiorano
- Somaglia
- Terranova dei Passerotti

In the Veneto Region:

- Viù

Yours sincerely

Stefan McHale  
Headteacher



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