

Garfield Primary
Today's children, tomorrow's future.

23rd November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Questions and Answers Re : Confirmed Covid Case at Garfield

I know that yesterday's news may have come as a shock to many of you, however please be assured that we are closely following the guidance of the DfE and Public Health England (PHE). Despite it being confirmed on the Sunday, we worked swiftly but carefully to ensure that you were informed. We took the appropriate actions to maximise safety.

We believe we were one of the last Enfield schools to have a confirmed case and we continue to have robust safety measures in place.

I hope that the letter sent out on Sunday was helpful, however I was mindful that you may well have other queries. I hope that this letter answers the key questions you may have. If you have other questions, please do either speak to one of the senior team on the school gates or email us at office@garfield.enfield.sch.uk.

It is really important that we continue to communicate effectively with you at all times.

How many cases of Coronavirus have been confirmed?

Only one case has been confirmed.

An assessment was made by both the school and in working with PHE (based on information provided by us). The school has good systems to track who comes into direct contact with who (for pupils, staff and any visitors). After consultation with PHE, it was decided that we needed to close one year 6 class- Hellebore. Parents of Year 6 Hellebore pupils were sent a separate letter yesterday with advice.

Which year group is affected?

The confirmed case is in Hellebore (Year 6). One class is closed **NOT** a whole year group.

Why isn't the school closing?

At this stage we only have a single case and we have been able to identify all the close contacts very quickly and to respond as advised. The advice is that the school remains open with all the systems of control in place such as hand washing, good respiratory hygiene, enhanced cleaning and protected groups/bubbles.

What happens about siblings of Year 6 Hellebore pupils?

As per government guidance, siblings of Year 6 Hellebore pupils are expected to attend school **UNLESS** they have symptoms.

How do I know if I came into contact with the infected person?

As we have pupils organised into class "bubbles" we know who came into contact with the infected person and have notified those who need to self-isolate as a precaution

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If the people that have been asked to self-isolate get tested and it comes back negative are they allowed back into school before the 14 days is up?

It is important that everyone follows the advice from Public Health England .All those asked to self-isolate for 14 days should not return until the isolation period is up. Parents are advised to **ONLY test their child if they develop symptoms.**

Can you confirm more details of the infected case?

As you might expect, I am not able to release any further details of the case in respect to their privacy. As explained above, we have contacted the relevant families and staff members. If the case was in regards to you/your child you would want as much privacy as possible. It is important to remember that speculation about who may have the confirmed case is unhelpful. I know I can count on us as a supportive and kind school community to respect the need for confidentiality.

I want to keep my child at home, can I do this?

We can understand your concerns and we wouldn't open the school if we didn't feel that the situation was contained. Our expectation and that of the government, is that children should attend school unless they are either unwell or need to self-isolate.

My child is not in the class affected but I am still very concerned as within the household we have vulnerable people. Will it be better to keep my child at home until this episode is over?

We can understand that those of you with vulnerable households will be more concerned and will have heightened concerns and worries.

Due to the systems we have in place at Garfield, we have been able to identify those who came into direct contact so we are expecting this to be contained. We will of course remain vigilant and keep you fully informed.

My child is in the affected class, how will they be learning?

We have our remote learning plans in place. Your child should already have their passwords and log in details for Google Classroom. We have already put all the information on our website in preparation for the possibility that remote learning might be necessary. If you require a paper pack, please let us know by contacting the school office .Please do ring or email the school if you need further support or information. We are here to help.

My child/ren were told to self-isolate by the school and PHE. How will their Free School Meals be reimbursed?

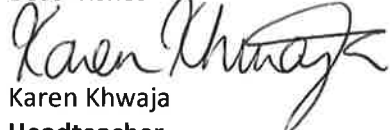
Our school kitchen is providing a food parcel for the number of school days that your child needs to isolate. There is a 2 day delay however as the food parcels have to be ordered and contain fresh produce. Please be assured that families will receive their full allocation. The school will make contact with families so that they can arrange collection of the food parcel from school. If you have any further enquiries, please contact the school.

What happens if I don't send my child in?

We sincerely hope that this single case of a confirmed case does not cause you to keep your child from attending school. The majority of our pupils remain at school and unless your child is unwell or self-isolating, then they should be attending school. If you are extremely worried, please do get in touch so we can support you. Our attendance figures at Garfield have been really good this term compared to the national picture.

I hope that this letter has been useful and may have answered the questions that you have. I would like to thank you all for your continued support and understanding.

Best wishes



Karen Khwaja
Headteacher